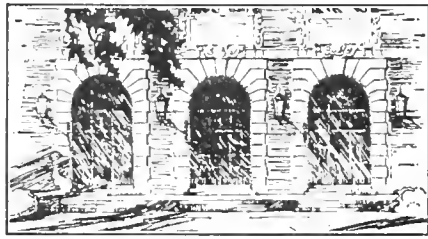


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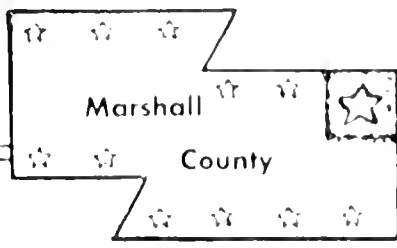
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Evans Township

Sandy Creek

*Old
Sandy
Remembers*



I come from haunts of coot and hern,
I make a sudden sally,
And sparkle out among the fern,
To bicker down a valley.

By thirty hills I hurry down,
or slip between the ridges,
By twenty thorps, a little town,
And half a hundred bridges.

Till last by Philip's farm I flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever.

I chatter over stony ways,
In little sharps and trebles,
I bubble into eddying bays,
Or babble on the pebbles.

With many a curve my banks I fret
By many a field and fallow,
And many a fairy foreland set
With willow-weed and mallow.

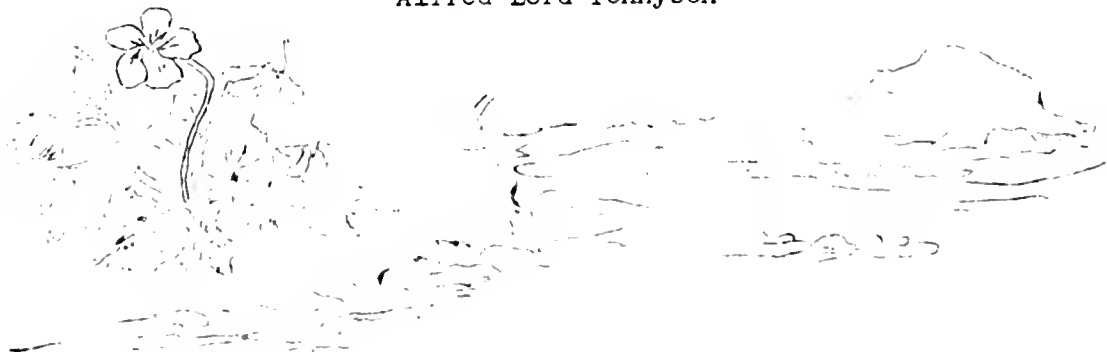
I chatter, chatter, as I flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever.

I wind about, and in and out,
With here a blossom sailing,
And here and there a lusty trout,
And here and there a grayling.

And here and there a foamy flake
Upon me, as I travel
With many a silvery waterbreak
Above the golden gravel.

And draw them all along, and flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever.

Alfred Lord Tennyson



IN THE BEGINNING

"I am Sandy Creek." From my very beginning my land has been beautiful. Sturdy trees, many of oak, maple, elm and walnut dotted the hills, their long branches reaching to the sky. Tall, rich grass covered the ground, and on the ridges of the hills purple asters, golden rod, and brown-eyed Susans my ragged banks and broken rocks and found their way to Illinois. The heavy snows of winter melted into angry swollen streams in the spring, flooding my banks with broken branches and debris from the hills as they tumbled on their way.

Small groups of Indians of the tribe of Sacs and Foxes often set up their wigwams in my valley as they returned from fishing trips on the river to their homes in the northern hills. Pottawatomies, too, camped here on peaceful missions, such as gathering corn, beans, squash, and pumpkins from their fields near by. During the long winter I welcomed the Indian Braves who spent many days with me trapping mink, beaver, wild cat, raccoon, muskrat and deer. After they collected and cleaned many bundles of skins, they journeyed to Peoria to their friends, the French, who had a settlement there. In payment for the furs they brought back knives, hatchets, grain, molasses, trinkets, gun powder, fire arms and sometimes liquor. They rested again in my valley, then moved back to their villages in the north with their supplies.

Life was slow moving and peaceful then, and no white men were within many square miles of my valley.

In the early 1800's wind of change and restless movement began to sweep over all the land. There was no work for the young men on the Atlantic seaboard after the War of 1812. Yet many immigrants were coming to the eastern cities. Where could they go? To the West was the only answer, and I could feel in my very being that my peaceful valley would never be the same. Boone's followers had settled Kentucky and Tennessee. Restless Quakers and Dutch were over flowing from Pennsylvania into Ohio, Scotch-Irish immigrants were coming to the Carolinas. Scouts began coming to my area through the gaps and low ridges of the Blue Ridge Mountains to find the land they craved--land for new homes for their growing families.

They found in me, Old Sandy, what new settlers always seek--a clear stream of running water, trees for their cabin homes, and plenty of grass for their cows and sheep. From now on the white man must tell my story, for the activity that began around me continues to increase until it has reached far beyond my boundaries.

Selden L. Myers.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | | Page |
|---------|-------|---------------------------------------------------|------|
| Chapter | I | Old Sandy | |
| Chapter | II | How Wenona Got Its Name | 1 |
| Chapter | III | Country Life in the Middle Decades | 12 |
| Chapter | IV | Early Industries and Recreation | |
| Chapter | V | Middle Decades of Sandy | |
| Chapter | VI | Wenona and Its Enterprises | |
| Chapter | VII | Wenona Fire | 45 |
| Chapter | VIII | Cumberland Cemetery | 51 |
| Chapter | IX | Our Churches | 60 |
| Chapter | X | Our Schools | 79 |
| Chapter | XI | Highways and Byways | 91 |
| Chapter | XII | Wenona's Social Life in Early 20th. Century | 95 |
| Chapter | XIII | Ups and Downs of Wenona's Business | 99 |
| Chapter | XIV | Wenona's Stars | 107 |
| Chapter | XV | The Marshall County Flag | 113 |
| Chapter | XVI | Our Cemeteries | 116 |
| Chapter | XVII | The Honor Roll | 121 |
| | | Wenona Business District 1968 | 130 |
| Chapter | XVIII | The Marshall County Place Mat | |
| | | Conclusion | |
| | | Bibliography | |

Chapter I

We, today, surrounded by every convenience and luxury of modern times, little realize what our forefathers endured in the settlement of this, our Evans Township. The youth of today will only know through the writings of our forefathers, their records, papers, manuscripts--how our history began.

At the eastern end of the timber on upper Sandy the Thomas Brooke family in 1824 built the first log cabin. It is not recorded why they came, but with this family came the Patrick Cunninghams, the Joseph Smiths, Horace Gaylord, Alva Humphrey, Able Estabrook, William Hart, Samuel Hawkins, and George Hollenback. With these people also came the family of Benjamin Darnell. According to record in Wilkes County Court House, North Carolina, Darnell was a merchant trader who traded household needs for cattle, bought land in Wilkes County for feeding his stock and, with the land inherited from his father he owned about a thousand acres. In a letter he said he was going to Illinois, because he wanted more fertile land for his family and wanted to better his conditions. It is likely, then, that the whole group of families came from somewhat the same area and for the same reason. Following the routes the scouts had used, these people, with their personal possessions traveled in cumbersome covered wagons drawn by oxen, their stock either tied to the wagons or herded along by the young men on horseback. Facing the great west with its dangers during the weeks on the trail took courage.

It was nearing the fall of 1829, when they reached this fertile, rolling, prairie and staked out their claims. Not much can be learned about that first winter and its problems. The Darnell's daughter died on Dec. 18, 1829, and was buried on the Darnell claim.

In the spring of 1830 Joshua Evans came, and taking his claim on the north side of Sandy Creek, paid Patrick Cunningham with a mare worth one hundred dollars to build him a cabin on this claim. He lived here all his life, leaving his heirs on the land. The Joshua Evans cabin was built in what is now the yard of Dell Kemp's farm home. The first white children born at Sandy were Jarvis and Lucy Evans, and, to the family credit, Jarvis was educated, finished Quincy college and became a Methodist minister in 1854. In fact the area was eventually named Evans Township in memory of this well known old settler.

In 1831 Thomas and Elizabeth Darnell Judd, having heard from her father at Sandy of the great opportunities in the new state of Illinois, left their home in Wilkes County, North Carolina, and with ox team, covered wagon, and six children began the long trek. When they arrived, they selected land across Sandy Creek and built a log cabin. To this day the land is owned by a Judd descendant, Ralph French. Many more men came in 1831; among them James Reynolds, Thomas Dixon, John S. Hunt, John Darnell, Lemuel Gaylord, John Griffith, Stewart Ward, four Jones brothers, Justis, Ira, Barton, and Abram and Jeremiah Hartenbower,

The winter of 1830 and 1831 was the coldest and snowiest in the memory of the new settlers. Food was scarce too, and the cabins not always able to keep the families warm. One story of that winter is as follows: The father went for help for the care of his sick child. While he was gone, the baby died, and the starving wolves that roamed the prairie howled so close outside the cabin that the frightened mother put the dead baby on the rafters, pushed a chest against the door as a barricade and watched all night for fear a desperate wolf might leap through the window covered only by a hide.

One incident of that winter is told as happening near Magnolia. A man came on horseback to the mill for a sack of meal. As he was on the way home, his horse fell exhausted in the snow. While he went for help the wolves attacked the horse, tearing holes in its side. The horse was rescued and lived. That winter it was said that pigs froze in the mud when the temperature dropped 80 degrees in an hour.

Rattlesnakes were common then and in summer of 1830 Joshua Foster claimed he killed 53 of the "varmints."

In those days doctors were scarce on the frontier, but elderly women went out nursing, bringing with them herbs and other home made remedies used by their mothers. A good mid-wife was about the most important person in the settlement and, when she arrived at a cabin, her word was law, and everyone stepped lively. But the old cemeteries with their many little graves tell a sad story of the hardships of the settlers and the lack of medical skill.

In May 1832 the people of Sandy Creek were warned that Black Hawk and his warriors had crossed the Mississippi, near the mouth of the Rock River and were sending bands of scalping Indians not only up that river, but also to the south and southeast into the Illinois River country. When a massacre near Indian Creek occurred, and several women were abducted, the settlers resolved to build a fort. Every able bodied man with ox, gun, and spade repaired to the Benjamin Darnell farm, now owned by Virgil Mann, dug a deep trench into which were inserted split logs ten feet high, then the dirt was packed tightly around the barricade fence. The exact dimensions of the fort are not known, but it must have been of considerable size, for the men built cabins inside for seventy persons, dug a well, had room for the wagons and other materials of the colony. There were fifteen heads of families, about thirty children and some unmarried men. The men, except in inclement weather, slept in the covered wagons within the fort. One man was on guard outside the fort each night. The only Indians seen, however, were a friendly family who were afraid of Black Hawk and wanted to come to the fort for protection.

The only food within the Fort was corn meal and meat. When some settlers deciding not to go to the Fort went to friends at a distance away from Sandy, they left their cattle and swine in a compound for the folks of the Fort to care for and use if there was a need for them. Whether this stock in the compound was used is not recorded, but it was good insurance against dire food shortage. It is interesting to note that the Joshua Evans family did not leave his home and go to the Fort. Four men from Sandy enlisted in Captain Wm. Howe's Rangers to fight Black Hawks' warriors, but, in a few months peace was restored, and the settlers happily returned to their cabins and welcomed their soldiers home. Just inside the Cumberland Cemetery entrance is a monument erected by Darnell and Judd descendants to commemorate the building of the "Old Fort." On this monument is stated the exact location of the Fort on the Virgil Mann farm.

Poverty was prevalent in the country in the 1830's. In fact actual money was scarce all over the states. The tools with which the people worked were quite primitive. The gun, axe, spade, iron wedge, maul and wooded mould-board plow were the implements used to work the woods and fields. Women had to gather dyes from poke berries, walnut hulls and other plants, save their wood ash and grease for soapmaking, melt the sheep tallow for candles, and raise the material for all their clothing and food. Flax was raised, the straw treated, then spun and woven into linen cloth for the summer dresses, shirts, trousers, and underthings. Wool from the sheep each family raised was sheared in the spring, washed, dried, picked, carded, and then spun and woven into flannel, lindseys, and jeans for the warm clothes of winter. Spinning wheels and looms were important tools in the cabin.

A story comes to mind that was passed on by a Wenona resident long since gone who had to wear the Lindsey Woolsey britches his mother made him. "You couldn't tell by my pants whether I was coming or going, but I had one consolation--all the boys had to wear the same kind."

Each settler devised his own mill to grind the corn and wheat. A large mortar, holding about a bushel of corn, was hollowed out of a big log, and, with the help of a good pestle, made of hard wood or stone, a grown boy could make enough corn meal for each day's use.

The meats were pork, wild turkey, prairie chicken, ducks, deer, and, in the fall, bear meat. Succotash, adopted from the Indians, was a favorite vegetable along with squash and dried pumpkin. Plenty of fruit could be found in the woods.

Furniture in the cabin consisted of a strong, roomy, homemade table, and, if you were well-to-do three or four splint bottom chairs. Otherwise you "made do" with plenty of stools made of puncheon slabs mounted on stout legs. The bedsteads were quite crude. Four posts were set up, then transverse poles extended crosswise and fitted into the log wall of the cabin. This bed supported the thick tick filled with dried prairie grass, and, if one came from the East, he put a fine feather bed on top for sheer comfort. Sometimes a housewife might have a few pieces of delft pottery to adorn the mantel above the fireplace. Pewter and tin plates and tin and iron spoons were most common table settings. An iron pot with heavy flat

top on which live coals were placed, served as an oven. Tea kettle and iron kettles hung on a swinging tram that swung over the fire when cooking.

The settlers knowing how a light in the window of their cabins might mean rescue to some wanderer in the bitter weather, made it a habit to burn a candle in the window.

In 1833 the community was organized as Sandy Precinct, part of LaSalle County, and on March 30th the first election was held. The Justices of the peace that were elected were Justin Jones and Richard Hunt. The constables were Burton Jones and George Martin. For elections Thomas Judd and George Martin were chosen clerks and Alvin Humphreys, Joshua Evans, and Horace Gaylord were judges. In the first state election on August 4th, 1834 sixteen votes were cast.

In the same year surveyors of the United States government surveyed all the area and divided it into sections. The layout of the claims which the settlers had staked out was so at variance with the surveyor's lines that something had to be done to avoid land disputes. A meeting was held and Thomas Judd, Joshua Evans and James Caldwell were named as a committee who drew up a set of resolutions that each settler kept such land as he originally claimed; and that upon entry of said claim after the land should come into the market, the settlers would deed to one another according to their original claims. This explains the peculiar division of farms at Sandy. When these lands were surveyed by the government in 1834 Evans was the most thickly settled section in Marshall County.

On June 19th, 1834 a law was passed giving to each active settler the right of pre-emption of 160 acres of land provided his family lived on the land until "said land" was brought to market. Two families could share 160 acres, each one having 80 acres. The settlers under these conditions could buy their land at \$1.25 per acre. For early pioneers, an orchard was considered conclusive evidence of actual settlement. When this was not done, a speculator from the East had a much better chance of getting the land away from the settlers when it was put up for sale. For some reason the Sandy settlers had not planted orchards, so they had some misgivings about being able to buy their claims.

President Van Buren in the spring of 1838 declared all lands east of the third principal meridian and south of the north line of Sandy Precinct "be offered at public auction to the highest bidder." The election would take place at Danville in September of 1838. Sandy settlers when they heard of the proclamation, rigged up wagons able to contain about three men and their camping outfits, and the men were on their way to Danville well before the appointed time. With them went the dollars that the pioneers had been hoarding for a long time. Those going were Wm. Brown, Justis Jones, Joshua Evans, George Beatty, James Caldwell, Sam Cox, Vincent Bowman, John Hunt, Joseph McCarty, David Griffin, and Thomas Judd. Luck was with these men, for no speculators came to the land auction, and the men hurried home with the proof that the land was now their own.

With the land now secure, improvements began at once. Orchards were laid out, and fences constructed. At first the men tried digging

ditches for fences piling the sod up at the banks of the ditches. The cows pulled the sod down and got across the ditches so they had to cut down trees, make rails and build rail fences which were used until after the Civil War.

Another one of the pioneers coming to Illinois in 1835 from Bourbon County, Ky., was William Swartz, settling near Sandy Creek, where he developed a good farm, experiencing the hardships and privations of pioneer life. The old homestead was owned and occupied by the Swartz descendants until 1963.

With the growth of Sandy, need for products promoted some industries. Two saw mills were set up, one on the Evans land, one on the Dent land. John Evans set up a turning lathe so the ladies could have proportioned and attractive table and chair legs and splint bottom chairs. Now parties began too, social life centering around the school, home and church. Marriages were on the increase and the young men generally chose their mates from their own pioneer area.

In these days corn shucking bees were big social events. The corn would be plucked off, husks and all hauled home and dumped on the floor of the barns. The neighbors came, divided into teams and started on equal piles of corn. The captain of the winning team was carried on the shoulders of his team to the house where a bountiful meal was ready and the girls and women dressed in their prettiest served the winners first. Such home made pleasures made the hard work worth while.

Everyone was astir about the presidential election of 1840. An occasional newspaper would somehow get to Sandy from Galens, Springfield, Chicago or Vandalia, and everyone in the neighborhood got to hear the news. No secret ballots were yet in use, so at the polling place a voter stuck his head in the window, the clerk called his name, set it down under the name of the candidate of the right party, and at the end of the day the votes were tallied. Both Whigs and Democrats voted in 1840, their first presidential election, and eight votes went for Martin Van Buren the Democratic candidate, the rest for William Henry Harrison the only Whig ever to become president. For the first time in his career Abraham Lincoln's name was on the ballot as a presidential elector for the Whig party. At this election two Revolutionary War Veterans voted, one Lemuel Gaylord now buried at Cumberland and Joseph Warner buried at Cherry Point.

In 1840 and 1841 Thomas Alexander and M. Clarkson came from Kentucky and brought a herd of thoroughbred cattle--"as fine a herd of shorthorns as could be found in the celebrated blue-grass country." To Mr. Alexander, also, the community was indebted for the fine blooded horses which he brought from Kentucky. Proof that Sandy was no longer a frontier was given by the fact that Mr. Clarkson left the wooded area in 1845, built for his family a fine house several miles south of Sandy on the fine rich prairie. He was the lone resident in that area for years.

In April 1843 the question of being attached to Marshall County was submitted to the voters of Sandy Precinct. The great distance from the county seat of Ottawa seemed to be the only argument in favor of the proposition, but that was enough and every vote was cast for the same. Bennington township did the same. There was not then a single inhabitant in the townships of Osage or Groveland in LaSalle County.



A SAMP MORTAR

SAMP was a coarse meal made from dry corn and cooked in various ways by pioneers for everyday food. A mortar was made by hollowing out one end of a log, forming a basin for kernels of corn which were pounded with a pestle fashioned of hard wood.

After early settlers built their cabins, the samp mortar could be heard resounding through the woods, usually in the evening or early morning.

If a finer meal was needed, it was ground between two flat circular stones in a hand-quern, then sifted. Johnnycake and corn pone were made by adding sour milk, buttermilk or water; soda, salt and shortening. An egg might go into the pone but not usually in the johnnycake because it was preferred drier for better preservation when traveling. Thus the name "journey cake" from whence "johnnycake" derives.

ASH HOPPERS AND LYE SOAP

Pioneer women made their own soap. They saved and rendered bacon rinds, cracklings, old lard and other fat scraps, then boiled them with rain water and wood ash lye "strong enough to float an egg," stirring for hours until thick enough to pour into a soap barrel or other container. If salt was added, it helped harden the harsh, gelatinous mass so it could be cut into chunks. A little sassafras improved the scent.

To get the lye, an ash-hopper had to be built of boards placed upright, edge to edge, to form a bin shaped like a wedge. Wood ashes were put into it all winter. In the spring, water was filtered through them and the strong lye seeped to the bottom where it drained into crocks or other vessels, ready to be used for making soap or hominy.



A "ReCeet for Washin Cloes," given to a young bride by her grandmother over a hundred years ago, called for shaving "one hole cake of lie sope in bilin water." It got clothes clean but was murder on the hands.

SCHOOLS

In the winter of 1832-1833, a man by the name of Ansen Bryant came to Fort Darnell and proposed to teach school. They fixed up a cabin in the old fort for him, and he taught a short time during the winter. The names of the pupils who attended the school were: John Dent, Minerva Dent, Enoch Darnell, Larkin Darnell, Benjamin Darnell, Alfred Judd, and William Evans.

In the fall of 1833, the necessity of a more ample and convenient school room was agitated, and the citizens decided to build a school house.

The site chosen was near the residence of Lucy Gibson, which in later years was known as the George Martin farm. The size was agreed upon and each of the families was asked to furnish his portion of logs for the building and deliver them upon the ground. This was promptly done, and raising of the building was done in one day, the cracks calked and daubed with clay. The school house had a puncheon floor, puncheon door, stick chimney, slab seats and desks, and a long fireplace.

Fuel was contributed by each family in proportion to the number of children sent. The teacher boarded around with them and was paid by subscription.

One of the first schools on record in this community was one taught by Thomas Gallagher in 1842-1843 and was known as the "Sandy Grove" school. It was located on what was known as the Marion French farm on Sandy and was often referred to as "Brush College."

In 1846, Thomas Judd Jr. taught school, and an agreement was made and signed by John G. Hunt, Jacob Myers, and James Beatty, in which the trustees agreed to pay Mr. Judd ten dollars a month for teaching. One half of his pay was to be paid in cash and the other half in livestock, grain, or store goods at one-half price.

The well established tradition of fine support for the schools of Wenona community began with the defining of the school districts in Evans Township in 1851.

The new school completed in August 1864 was a two story building. Trustees of the district were: William Hamilton, Joseph Warner, and F. H. Bond. It was a district school with two departments, and two teachers. The building was outgrown almost before it was completed, and at a meeting in February 1866, the district voted to enlarge.

By 1881, the school was again badly overcrowded and new provisions were made for the primary grade.

In 1892, the Wenona grade school was built and originally served both high and grade school students. It was reconstructed following a disastrous fire in 1907. This building stood in what is now the "City Recreation Park."

Wenona's beautiful high school building was constructed in 1926 and occupied for the first time in January 1927. It is now known as Wenona Community Unit I.

A number of country schools were common throughout Evans Township which have passed out of existence to become a part of consolidated schools.

Down through the years, families of Evans Township have taken an active part in education in this community.

Dorothy McMeen



W E N O N A H

Downward through the evening twilight,
 In the days that are forgotten,
 In the unremembered ages,
 From the full moon fell Nokomis,
 She a wife, but not a mother.
 She was sporting with her women,
 Swinging in a swing of grape-vines,
 When her rival, the rejected,
 Full of jealousy and hatred,
 Cut the leafy swing asunder,
 Cut in twain the twisted grape-vines,
 And Nokomis fell affrighted
 Downward through the evening twilight,
 On the Muskoday, the meadow
 On the prairie full of blossoms.
 "See! a star fall!" said the people;
 "From the sky a star is falling!"
 There among the prairie lilies,
 On the Muskoday, the meadow,
 In the moonlight and the starlight,
 Fair Nokomis bore a daughter,
 And she called her name Wenonah,
 As the first-born of her daughters.
 And the daughter of Nokomis
 Crew up like the prairie lilies,
 Grew a tall and slender maiden,
 With the beauty of the moonlight,
 With the beauty of the starlight.

* * * * *

Thus does Henry Wadsworth Longfellow write of the beautiful Indian maiden, Wenonah, in his poem, "The Song of Hiawatha." Later verses tell of the wooing of Wenonah by West-Wind (Mudgekeewis) and of Wenonah's death after her son, Hiawatha, was born, leaving him to be nurtured by Nokomis.

CHAPTER II

Wenona is a prairie town. Its roots are deep in the fertile soil from which it sprang. Unimagined wealth lay in its dark resources beneath the deep prairie grasses that had been undisturbed for centuries when it was Indian country. It was explored by the French, held by British soldiers and won by war for a new nation.

Wenona is a town of happy prosperous people. It sprung from the prairies, it was built by pioneers whose forward look has meant growth and a good life for succeeding generations.

In 1849 the land upon which Wenona now rests was entered by John O. Dent, a Sandy pioneer, as a possible location for the village. In 1852 when a fair-sized settlement of hustling farm folk already lived in Evans Township, Wenona was nothing but a station house on the not yet completed Illinois Central Railroad. The station house agent built himself a fair sized residence, established a post office and he was appointed the first postmaster. At first the place was treeless and uninviting with the land low and wet at times. Hon. John O. Dent saw the need for trees, started a nursery, charged little for his trees to householders and gave them to church groups and public buildings and helped set them out. The railroad between LaSalle and Bloomington was completed in 1853, and the first train came through Wenona on May 16, 1853. Regular service began almost at once.

In 1854 William Brown purchased a corner lot opposite the freight house and erected a building which he used for a store and boarding house. Charles Brown built the first hotel, The Wenona House, which burned down in the big fire of 1870.

The first settler was Dr. Cornelius Perry, who bought up a considerable amount of property and sold lots to folks moving into Wenona. In 1856 the town had grown to twelve hundred people, three hundred houses, two churches, three schools, a hotel and a saw mill.

In 1857 the village organized a municipal government with F. H. Bond, Solomon Wise, George Brockway, John B. Newburn and Emanuel Welty as trustees and John B. Brown, a police magistrate. The town was regularly laid out, it's principal street being built up with well-filled stores run by energetic business men doing an extensive trade with the surrounding country.

In 1872 the population was 1,335. The first two houses built in Wenona are still in use. They were moved from their first location so that the C & A Railroad could be put through. One of these homes on the corner of 2nd North and Walnut is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Jaegle and the other is the old Swartz home on N. Olive Street where Mrs. Behrand Fredericks lives.

The Monsers, who came from England, at first lived on a farm five miles west of Wenona and later moved to Wenona and were active in several industries there. Isaac Vaughn came in 1858, worked as a carpenter, enlisted in the Civil War, but returned to Wenona in 1867 to establish a drug store which was in operation many years. Mr. Vaughn was Wenona's first mayor.

This cross section of business places might be interesting to record. In 1861 Chas. Parker sold agriculture implements. In 1859 E. S. Fowler sold grain. Sam Scott and R. F. Beecher were operating a grocery in 1868 and E. P. Barker ran a hardware store then. Mr. C. Rieck had a complete line of boots and shoes for sale, and Mr. Thomas B. Hinman, a wagon manufacturer in 1865 advertised that he could furnish on short notice carriages, buggies and wagons on order. In 1878 a bank was established by Howe, Hodge and Ralston with Peter Howe furnishing most of the capital. Wenona people then had three doctors; Dr. Potts who came in 1868 and Dr. J. M. Higgins who came in 1878. Dr. Kendall Rich came to Wenona shortly after the Civil War ended. There seems to be evidence that at one time a Dr. A. Bagley practiced medicine in Wenona after the Civil War. Wenona's dentist was Dr. Garrett Newkirk and it's attorney-at-law was J. H. Jackson who came in 1865.

It is interesting to note that the first reaping machine made in Illinois (so the story goes) was invented by Wm. E. Parret in 1847 and was made in a machine shop in Magnolia. The Parret family later moved to Wenona and was prominent in civic and social affairs.

With Osage Township now settled and markets opened in all directions by the two railroads, C & A and I. C., Wenona became a center for shipping. A record of one year's shipping reads as follows: Wheat shipped--46,000 bu., corn--280,500 bu., oats--132,900 bu., barley--18,600 bu., cattle--930 head, hogs--5,911 head, and wool--32,000 lbs.

CHAPTER III

COUNTRY LIFE IN THE MIDDLE DECADES

Life in Evans Township in the middle decades of the nineteenth century was busy but lacked the hardships and fears of the frontier. Neighbors exchanged work, ideas, equipment and fun. From a diary in the possession of Julia Aukland started by her Grandmother, Charlotte Waters in 1859, we learn about life on the farm.

With the average farmer good driving horses, a carriage of spring wagon and a light cart were necessary conveyances, as traveling between neighbors and to town was necessary. And to the young lad "goin' a courtin'", a high stepping horse, a spanking new buggy with a colorful buggy whip and shiny new harness, were desired luxuries. He might have to hire out to a neighbor after his father's crop was in to get the money, but having the new rig, as it was called, was a status symbol.

From Charlotte's diary it is easy to follow the life of a farm girl and to wonder where was the leisure we crave today. Up at four in the morning on Monday to get a breakfast of fried potatoes, meat, coffee, fried cakes (doughnuts) and pie for the men, she followed the work pattern brought by her parents from "back East"--wash on Monday, iron on Tuesday, churn and bake on Wednesday, Thursday mend and go calling, Friday dust and sweep, and on Saturday churn again and bake. Sunday was church and "get to-gether" of the families.

To start the week right, the washing must be on the line as early as possible, all the white clothes having been boiled in a copper boiler on the kitchen range, and rinsed in the tubs of rain water on the wash bench. Next the floor would be mopped, and all the porches and board walks scrubbed with wash water. Wasting of the suds from the home made soap was not countenanced. When the milk pails, strainers, crocks, and breakfast dishes were done, the cream was skimmed from yesterday's milk and poured into the cream pail hanging in the well or cistern for refrigeration. The kitchen range then needed a black polish and shine for the wash boiler had left suds spots. It was a poor housekeeper indeed who didn't keep a shiny black stove.

Maybe we can recall having seen Great Grandfather's picture decked out in his stiff white shirt front, or have seen Great Grandmother's ruffled and embroidered petticoat. Little girls wore pantalettes with ruffled flounces, and little boys white blouses with large sailor collars trimmed with embroidery. This collar was worn outside his tight wool jacket. These clothes had to be ironed with sad irons heated on the range. The ironing board was hand made, and, since it had no stand, one end rested on the kitchen table, the other on a sturdy straight backed chair. The wood box would be full to it's brim with split sticks of cured wood before ironing began. The story goes that by the turn of the century when young ladies wore three and four of the petticoats, several women folk did the ironing on Tuesday morning.

Charlotte often found time after ironing to ride horseback to the neighbors for a little "girl talk" as well as to borrow a pattern for a new dress or dressing sac. She tells her diary about the wheel coming off the buggy when she and George were coming home from a Fourth of July picnic.

Charlotte wrote that she was concerned about her mother who coughed a lot and had a bad case of ague. They tried home remedies, as they didn't think much of the doctor in the area. To her, as to many others, these cough and ague cases brought tragedy for there seemed to be no cure. They generally proved to be consumption cases as they were then called. Charlotte's father took her mother back to Vermont to be near her own folks and to get good treatment, but had to return to the farm work. The mother died and was buried before the folks could get to her funeral. Telegraph communications had been delayed, and it took two days to get to Vermont by train. Charlotte, until her marriage, took charge of the housework for her father.

When the men came to hand shear the sheep, Charlotte wrote about the meals. After mopping the kitchen, she put beef on the range to boil, chickens in the oven to bake, prepared the potatoes and greens. She then roasted the green coffee beans until they were brown, then ground in the coffee mill the amount she needed for dinner, storing the rest of the roasted beans in the big coffee can. Her pies and cake were baked the previous day.

After dinner and dishes were over, she drove the buggy to the neighbors to pick strawberries. She wanted to make some jam and to put some in bottles for pies. These bottles seem to have been the old Mason glass jars which were beginning to be used then.

Early in the summer a trip was made to town to pick pails of cherries. A woman had been hired to come help pit and help bottle the cherries for winter. In mid-summer seven pounds of red currants were made into jelly, gooseberries and blackberries were found wild in the woods and brought home to preserve for winter. Although the diary didn't say, the men generally went on this outing, for the woods near Magnolia were quite dense and, with the men along, the girls were not afraid. Picnic lunches were part of the day's excursion but the milk pails full of fruit were the reward for work. Scratches from the blackberry thorns left their marks for several days.

On Saturday the family went to Wenona, Henry, or Magnolia to do the week's trading. If the mail hadn't been picked up at the Post Office, they got the mail too. Crops of butter and dozens of eggs were brought to the grocer who gave credit at the current price for the produce, and then the farmer traded out the amount in the store. Often the farm produce paid for all the sugar, flour, calico, spices, cocoanut and chocolate needed, as well as the kerosene for the lamps.

In August after threshing, the straw ticks used on the beds had to be ripped, the straw dumped in a barn stall or on the strawberry patch, the tick laundered, and then filled with new straw fresh from the straw stack. A few mattresses might be found in the community for the guest bedrooms, but straw ticks made good beds.

Another task for August was the taking up of the rag carpets. The straw padding was carried out, the floor scrubbed and dried, and then fresh straw spread evenly over the floor. A good housekeeper might have sewed enough carpet rags in the winter and have them woven and ready to put down in the room where the carpet was worn. Often Dad had to be called in to stretch the carpet tight, as it was tacked, for there must be no wrinkles when the job was finished.

For the parlor with it's horsehair sofa, center table with the big blown-glass egg and the stereopticon views, also the large secretary, there would be an ingrain carpet stretched over the straw for this carpet had to have a padding too.

A chore disliked by the girls was the polishing and counting of the family cutlery. There was for many families the set of silver, often 1847 Roger Brother's plate, which had to be polished, counted and put in it's cotton flannel cases after company dinner. For everyday, everyone used the steel knives and forks with wooden or bone handles. Brick dust, cut from a soft brick as needed, was used to polish off any stain or rust. The work was tiring yet the steel pieces shone when polished and there was pride in the table set with the red check table cloth and these pieces. The silver spoons were in the spoon holder and used as needed.

Since dress shops and garment factories were not common until the new century, the mother bought the goods needed for the family sewing and often a maiden aunt or the community dressmaker or both came and stayed several days to make the winter dresses for the women folk. There was often another such sewing session in the spring.

Butchering was an important event on the farm and was left for late fall as cold weather was needed. Several pigs were butchered and possibly a young beef. The entire family helped, the older children staying home from school. Some of the meat such as heart, liver, tenderloins, spare ribs, and side meat were eaten fresh. Stomach aches often resulted from over-eating that good fresh pork. The fat was trimmed off all the meat and rendered in the oven in big dripping pans and stored in five and ten gallon jars. Previously the lard was rendered in huge iron kettles over an open fire in the yard. The hams, shoulders and side meat were put down in a salt brine for from seven to ten days to be cured. Then they were hung in the smoke house where hickory or apple wood was burned, the smoke seasoning the meat to the right flavor. Grandpa was often in full charge of the curing and smoking of the meat. His receipt for the brine was "it must be thick enough to hold up an egg."

With the fall and winter the women had another daily chore. The kerosene lamps had to be filled, the wicks trimmed, the chimneys washed and shined, the reflectors on the reading lamps polished, so after the chores were done in the evening the Wenona Index, The Inter Ocean, and The Youth's Companion could be read as the family sat around the kitchen table. These were weekly papers picked up at the Post Office.

Before the children were sent upstairs to bed, someone went to the cellar to bring up a big pan of Domino and Snow apples, someone else would crack a pan of hickory, walnut or hazel nuts to munch along with the apples. Grandmother would finish getting the last few nut meats picked out and put in a jar for the nut cake. Dad's stories of the Indians, the building of the fort or the wolves that used to howl at night thrilled the kids but sent them to bed afraid of their shadows, and the flicker of the kerosene lamp cast wierd and frightening shadows on the ceiling as they went to sleep.

The young men of Sandy loved to drive fine horses, take their girls to the Union Fair, the Chataqua, or on a moonlight excursion on the paddle-wheel steamer on the Illinois River during the summer. In the winter skating

the full length of Sandy Creek and then collecting at a farm home for an oyster stew was one of the favorite pastimes. When a barn was finished, there had to be a square dance held on the new board floor with all the neighbors joining in with cakes, sandwiches, with cider and coffee to sustain the busy dancers. Neighborhood fiddlers played their favorite folk tunes such as Turkey in the Straw, Skip to My Lou and Captain Jinx to accompany the dances.

Smoking and card playing were pastimes frowned upon by some elders in Evans Township, but the story goes that some of the young men managed to have a club house in a shed not too far from Cumberland Church. They met there afternoons or evenings to play cards and smoke their pipes. Many stories were told of the tricks played on each other or on a too curious outsider. An elder resident of Wenona tells this story. He and another young lad figured a way to get into the club house, and wanting to be big guys, decided to try the cob pipes they found on the window sill. The smoking tobacco and matches were right handy, too. They filled the pipes and lit up, but something exploded and burned off their eyebrows and eyelashes. There was a little gun powder in the tobacco just as a nice surprise for intruders.

The good living on the country farms of Evans Township had to be earned by hard work and thrift. The depression of 1870, the cholera that almost wiped out the money crop of the farm--hogs, the drought, the chintz bugs in the corn, the early frost sometimes brought despair. But year in and year out life in Evans Township was rewarding. Since the sons and daughters were needed on the farm, they generally stayed home until they married. Often, too, they married in the community, exchanged equipment and labor with their parents and established a healthy family area.

As time moved to the twentieth century big changes came to the countryside. The farms were largely cleared of timber, drained by the laying of tile, and worked with machinery invented to ease the heavy labor and get much more work done.

With the growth of cities many jobs there were enticing and the young people began leaving the farms. Every child began to go to high school and a few went to college, so farm population began to move to the town and city. It wasn't long before farm owners began renting their farms to immigrant families and moving to the city for that leisure and social life that could be found in Wenona.

MEMORIES OF EDWIN WRIGHT

Before his death in 1952 at the age of 92, Edwin Wright reminisced about boyhood on a farm west of Wenona and south of Sandy Creek. He was born on New Year's Day 1860, the youngest of Eyard and Jane Wright's ten children. During his life which spanned parts of two centuries, Edwin witnessed the transition from horse-drawn and man-powered implements to motor-driven, automatic machinery; from the crudest of conveyances, tools and household utensils to modern timesaving gadgets.

In the 1860s schooling was scheduled so that children could help with the farming. After they were old enough to work, boys attended classes only in winter. Like his friends, Edwin walked behind horses over acres of rough fields, barefoot in summer and wearing heavy "atogey" boots in cold weather. Shoes were expensive and going barefoot whenever possible saved their soles.

Mother Jane Wright made all the clothes (cheaper by the dozen) for her family of twelve and, as was the custom, they were handed down from older to younger children until worn to shreds.

Father Eyard Wright hunted for quail and prairie chickens to sell to the Chicago market for money to help buy groceries. He shot game for his own table, too. Other common, everyday fare was corn bread and "hog and hominy." (See page on Hog and Hominy). Edwin helped his mother by fanning flies from the table before the advent of screens, and "working" big batches of dough for the many loaves of bread baked to feed the large family. This took much muscle and time.

Although there was little formal recreation, there was a lot of fun in those days. They visited relatives and friends, went to "socials," or barn raisings. They hunted, fished, played ball and other games. Edwin's favorite swimming spot was "Miller's Hole" in Sandy Creek. On Sundays the whole family climbed into their horse-drawn wagon and went to Old Sandy M. E. Church.

Pioneers travelling through the country in covered wagons were often given hospitality, food and overnight shelter at the Wrights'.

When Eyard bought the farm adjoining the Wright homestead, Edwin went with him to Hennepin to complete the transaction. They crossed the Illinois River by boat at night, carrying the cash in a suitcase and fearful all the while of being robbed or losing the money in the river. Neither misfortune happened.

At the age of twenty-four in 1884, Edwin Wright married and began farming for himself. They had three children: Bernard E., Garnet and DeWitt. Later in life, he moved into town and prior to his death in May 1952, Edwin Wright was Wenona's oldest citizen with the longest record of continuous residence in the township.

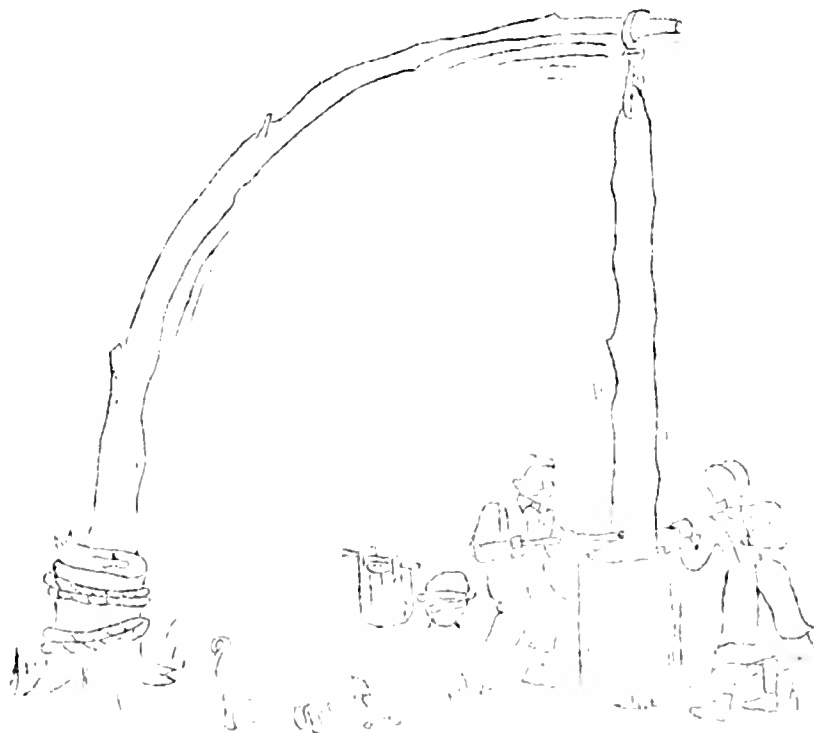
HOG AND HOMINY

Side meat or pork from other parts of a butchered hog were such common accompaniment to hominy that the monotonous fare was often called "hog 'n' hominy" by farmers in Evans Township in the 1860s.

Lye, leached in an ash hopper to use in making soap, was also needed to soften dry corn for making hominy. This may be a little startling at first thought, albeit true. After the hard kernels had been soaked in lye they were cracked in a hominy block then cooked in water or milk.

There were different sizes of hominy blocks. One kind was made of a block of wood or tree trunk about three feet long. A round-bottomed cavity was burnt or gouged in one end. The other end sat on the ground. Corn was placed into the hollowed top and pounded with a wooden pestle about ten feet long and six inches thick. The heavy pestle was suspended from a limber pole and a handle was put through it horizontally two feet from the bottom for two people to use in plying it up and down to crush the corn.

Not every family had a hominy block. Neighbors brought corn to crack in the nearest one or sent their children to do it. This was one of the many things that were shared.



A SWEET SHORT STORY ABOUT A SORGHUM MILL

1860

Back in the days before corn syrup was invented, folks in these parts got their Sweet'nin agent from Clarence Axline.

Clarence had a sorghum mill on his place about three miles west of Wenona, the same mill his dad Aaron operated before him. Almost every farmer around "raised cane" in those days. When the sorghum cane was ready, he and his help would go through the cane field, strip the leaves off the stalks with cane knives then he would go and gather up those cane stalks until his rack was full and he could bring it into Axline's.

Clarence looked over every rack of cane that came in there, and he would estimate about how much sorghum that rack of cane was worth, and give the farmer a barrel of that stuff.

When the mill was going full swing each year, usually in the time between oat threshing and corn husking, Clarence had 8 or 10 men working the mill for him, running the press that squeezed the juice from the sorghum cane then cooking the juice in huge pans and skimming off the top slime. The mill ran by horse power in its early days, and later a steam engine kept it going.

Some of the farmers didn't bother with raising cane, and Clarence sold those fellows the sorghum they needed outright.

Running the sorghum presses wasn't the safest job in the world, the old timers say. Rollin White lived the biggest part of his life, minus four fingers, he lost one day while working the press.

The sorghum mill workers had their own brand of fun. On the nights one of the fellows was going courting, they would secretly paint his horse and harness all over with the sticky green waste they skimmed off the sorghum pans. To further enhance the romantic aura, the "skim" had a distinctively unpleasant smell.

All this "raising cane" stopped when corn syrup manufacturing came in. Sorghum couldn't compete with it in price. Unscrupulous merchants had a trick to force real sorghum off the market, too. They hauled black-strap molasses from New Orleans, mixed it with glucose, and sold the substance for genuine sorghum.

SOME BOYHOOD MEMORIES OF OLIVER EXTROM

In the days when I was a young boy, farming, and almost everything else, was geared to a slow pace, not in any way comparable to present day methods or speed. All farm equipment was horse drawn. Machines were simple and few.

Since all corn husking was done by hand many of the stalks still remained standing in the spring and were somewhat of a nuisance when oats were sown, and which had to be cultivated in with horse drawn, one row walking cultivators. These corn stalks would get caught on the frame work of the cultivator to which the shovels were attached and would have to be pulled off frequently. A few years later a simple machine, called a "stalk cutter" came into being, which was horse drawn, like everything else. This equipment would cut the stalks into about ten or twelve inch lengths, and took two rows at a time. This operation made 'cultivating-in' the oats much easier and better too. This stalk cutter did have a seat on it, but the riding was so rough and shaky that some preferred to walk behind it.

All corn was planted using horses and a two row planter. A "check row" wire was used to drop the corn in precisely the exact spot so that it could be cultivated in both directions. It was a boon to farmers when the "pulverizer" came out. I believe they are called "discs" now. That ended putting in oats with a cultivator. Discs soon became indispensable to farmers. The first one I ever saw was only six or seven feet wide.

Harrowing was also done on foot, usually with a four sectioned harrow and four horses. Plowing in the spring and fall was usually done with walking plows and three horses, but there was also two horse plows. Some few farmers did have breaking plows equipped with seats.

Threshing was also done by slow motion. After oats were cut and shocked and allowed to dry a few days or weeks, threshing began. The first threshing machine I can remember was a single unit. The straw came out at the rear end of the separator through an elevated conveyer which dropped the straw all in one place, and the stacks were made oblong. Two or three men did the stacking and built nice and trim stacks. Then came what was called a "swinging stacker". This was another unit and was placed at the rear of the separator. A belt from the separator operated this stacker which swung from right to left, or vice versa, in a semi-circular pattern distributing the straw from the separator in a circular arc, and three men with forks built beautiful stacks. But in a few years the scene was changed again when the blower stacker made its debut, and the older methods bowed out. This marked the end of the beautifully formed straw stacks in the country which had to give way to shapeless piles of straw, but this was progress.

A twelve horsepower steam engine furnished the motive power for threshing and many other things. This engine had to have fuel to make steam. This also required water, so a good sized water tank, mounted

on wheels was an indispensable part of the equipment.

When the threshing equipment was lined up and in order, horse drawn loads of bundles would pull up on both sides of the separator and the drivers would pitch the sheaves on to a table where two men were standing on a platform, each with a hooked knife in his hand, with which to cut the bands on the sheaves before they entered the cylinder compartment of the separator. Corn shelling has also had its evolution.

Of course, there were no telephones in the country then, but cities and some smaller town had such service, and there was no electricity outside of town either. I think I am correct in saying that the first telephone between Varna and Lacon was in the Conrad Held home, across the road from the Tax School House. I remember, also, how obliging this family was when any one needed to call a doctor, or anyone else.

Doctors did not have automobiles then, but had to depend on horse drawn power. Some doctors kept a steady man to take care of the horses.

But, we must say something about "House Work" too. The family washing was laboriously done on a washboard, and the seemingly endless ironings were not easy. Eggs had to be gathered and kept from spoiling without refrigeration. Butter was another item that took a lot of time and patience. The usual churn was a small barrel type affair with a plunger that was worked up and down by hand. When the ingredients finally became butter, the precious lump had to be preserved, and this was done by letting it way down in the well by means of a rope. Later, however, some farmers did have "Ice Boxes," but the ice had to be replenished quite often. There were many other household duties, too numerous to mention, that the ladies had to perform, including such things as sewing husking mittens. The goods was purchased by the yard and made into mittens, and sewing also practically everything the family wore. The list of duties in most families was in-exhaustible. Some families had a spinning wheel which allowed them to make their own yarn, which was later made into socks or stockings for the family, by either the mother or grandmother in the household.

Butchering and canning was another arduous task which had to be done. Lamps, burning kerosene, had to be filled and cleaned and the floors had to be scribbled etc., etc.

Many more pages could be written on the subject, but I am afraid it is already too much.

I am also sure there are many in Marshall County who could go back in history far beyond the horizon of my memory, as I will be only 85 years young in the middle of next July, 1968.

Chapter IV

EARLY INDUSTRY FIRST OF KIND OUTSIDE CHICAGO

1865

One of the largest industries of the early days of Wenona was the Becher Flouring mill. It was the result of a long series of efforts to encourage someone to erect a grist mill, and was the first flouring mill in northern Illinois outside of Chicago.

There were five grist mills within ten miles of Wenona in 1865 and apparently all enjoyed excellent business for a farmer frequently had to wait for several days before he received his grist. Conditions were ideal for a mill as coal was available only 10 or 12 miles away, probably along the Vermillion river but no mill was in the Wenona area.

In 1865 one O. P. Ross contracted to build a mill for \$2000.00 but evidently he did not carry through his project for the next year there was still agitation. A mass meeting was held at Grable's store to consider the matter and an organization set up. John Taylor was elected president, O. M. Southwell secretary-treasurer. They were to prepare a subscription list and seek a responsible person to build a mill.

A Mr. Dobson of Minonk, Ill. offered to supply half of a \$6000.00 stock issue if Wenona could supply the rest. This failed as only \$1100.00 was subscribed against a public subscription required of \$1400.00. The next fall Ong and Taggart of Reading were offered a \$1000.00 and 2 acres of ground in Wenona, but went to Lstant because of a better offer.

Finally in 1870 Becher brothers from southern Illinois came to Wenona and started the mill east of the Illinois Central tracks, where the State Highway buildings were located before moving south of Wenona. As the grain was fed to the big stones, large as a big truck wheel, it was then sifted through a bolting cloth which was as sheer as chiffon, only stiffer. The women of the family made beautiful cut work from this cloth. The stones gradually became corrugated and it was a delicate operation to smooth them again.

In addition to making flour which was shipped in barrels made at the plant, enormous quantities of corn were ground into cornmeal and grists. This was sold in car load lots and shipped to New Orleans.

The Becher mill was the first flouring mill built outside of Chicago. As the Chicago market increased the smaller mills were absorbed and the Becher mill turned to grinding grains for feed and sold grains and feeds. It was in operation for 30 years.

A lumber yard was added to the old mill property about 1890, and the foreman was Charles B. Scott, son of a local business man Sam Scott. In 1894 he purchased the business, when Mr. Becher retired. Later he bought the down town lumber yard from Mr. Cook; this is now the Allen Lumber Company.

WENONA'S OLDEST COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE

In 1934 F. H. Ong wrote about the frame building at the corner of First North and Chestnut Streets. At that time an addition was being built on the west side. It is conceded to be Wenona's oldest commercial building by long odds; in fact it is so old that there seemed to be no one who knew when it came into the picture.

Some information was gathered from Austin Garvin and Thomas Gants who were old settlers in Wenona. When Mr. Garvin was a young man he resided in Magnolia and frequently came here to participate in social activities; making the trips on horse-back.

"Those trips," he continued, "were made, I distinctly remember, during the '50s, and the building was very much in commission then, and invariably upon Saturday nights was the scene of much revelry, consequence of the weekly balls conducted on the second floor. Whether it was erected prior to, or after, the coming of the Illinois Central railroad, in '54, is a matter concerning which I am hazy, but, it is my honest conviction that it ante-dates the advent of the railroad."

Realizing that Mr. Garvin's information was as nearly authentic as is safe to say the structure was about 80 years old in 1934.

Mr. Gants, possessed of a memory of events that was admirable, and who spent his early manhood down around Shaw's Point, on route 17, between Varna and Lacon, was born about 1850. His testimony synchronized with that of Mr. Garvin. Both were men of remarkable memories, and when they "checked" on the matter, I concluded the task of unearthing the age of the building as hopeless, unless a program of some social event, held in the upper hall, might have been endowed by posterity from a still earlier forefather.

Mr. Garvin said it was built by one of the first comers to Wenona, Austin Fowler, who conducted a general store on the ground floor, vending such articles as needles, stock fish, seersucker suits, washboilers, trunks, etc. Being the only mercantile establishment of this character in the community at the time, Mr. Garvin averred he did a tremendous business.

"During the late '60s, or, perhaps, earlier '70s, the building passed into the ownership of the late Francis H. Bons, a rather reticent and retiring old gentleman, who, at death during '97, left an endowment fund that created the city's library. Mr. Bond, following his purchase, dispensed with the ballroom feature, so long obtaining on the second floor, and converted the space into office suites, one of which he continued to occupy until his demise," continued Mr. Garvin.

About the time of the transfer of the premises to Mr. Bond, Mr. Fowler ceased his mercantile activities and the ground level was taken over by N. T. Moulton, and son, Frank, who came this way about '73 from Mendota, and set up an exclusive hardware store. This business, among the oldest in

the city, continued in the location until the early years of the present century, when removal was made to the Lambourn building in the south block.

After closing up the Bond estate, the building was acquired by the Star Union Brewing Company. Quite naturally, following purchase by the brewery, it became occupied as a tap room by William Lauf, Phil Connelly, Emil Strauch. When the Volstead Act stalked the land in 1920, the brewery leased the premises to Charles Anthony and Otto Simon, for barber shop and cigar factory purposes. After the above act was repealed, "Chub" Johnson had a tavern in the front part, while the rear housed the cream station and shoe repair shop of Simon and Pomeranke.

In 1938 Chub sold the tavern to Edward Donnelly and when Red came home from service in 1946, he bought the lot north of the tavern and built a dining room in connection with it. July 1952 Red sold both to Lester Funk.

Thomas Smithberger bought the building later, completely remodeling the interior into a modern laundromat and also put aluminum siding on the exterior. It now looks like a new building. It will have to be granted that it has quite a history.

The north block, wherein is located the frame structure, has not been without a danger of fire. Nevertheless, it has withstood fire in a manner that simply has to be uncanny. True, it too, has been on fire at different times, but invariably the damage has been confined to a bundle or two of shingles. In face of all this--the old frame building on the corner continues to retain its composure and greets you with a smile upon the approach of each succeeding sun. 'Tis all uncanny, but true.

INDUSTRIES, BUSINESSES AND RECREATION

PATCH & SWIFT FOUNDRY

Heavy industry came to Wenona with the Jesse George Foundry before 1865. He sold out to Patch and Swift in 1870, and they enlarged and modernized the plant until they could boast, "one of the most perfect and complete establishments west of Pittsburgh." This foundry became famous for the quality and quantity of its work.

Stove repairs were a specialty and the firm went to great expense to secure patterns of well known makes. The ornamental iron work on the buildings in the central block of Main street was made there. The foundry continued in operation until the late 1880's when it moved to Streator and continued operations until in the 1940's.

ZINC SMELTER

The Zinc Smelter started smelting in December, 1891, and continued in operation for about 12 years. The original incorporators were H. S. Sherwood, E. L. Monser and George S. Monser. The smelter employed from 50 to 100 men. W. E. Monser purchased the plant in 1909 and, then, gradually dismantled it.

CIGAR MAKING

Otto Simon came to Wenona in 1902 when he started making cigars. He bought the tobacco in 300 and 400 pound case lots from Pennsylvania, Ohio and Cuba.

The tobacco was dampened in tubs over night, then the stems were taken out and the fillers hung up to dry. The cigars were made by hand and consisted of a filler, binder and wrapper. They were put in molds to shape, then cut and a wrapper put on. Mr. Simon made about 1500 cigars a week. A popular one was called 'Franz Hals' and also one was called 'Reporter' which sold for 5¢. The cheapest was \$25 for a thousand and others sold for \$30 and \$35. They were put in wooden boxes and tin cans. He made them until 1929 when he went in the shoe and harness business with Julius Pomerence.

Mr. Simon will also be remembered playing the French Horn in the Wenona Band.

GUS BECKMAN HOUSE WAS SITE OF WENONA PLANING MILL1866

A brief announcement was made in a rejoicing mood, on October 12, 1866. The new planing mill got steam up that day. A new home for an old established business had been built and equipped, and Wenona was growing rapidly.

The building still standing today, is a monument to the building knowledge and skill of the owner, James Hodge, who was also the contractor and builder.

James Hodge brought his family to Wenona in 1855 from Magnolia, Illinois where he had first settled when he first came to Illinois from Ohio. He established a lumber business and planing mill and went into the contracting business. His son Lewis worked in the planing mill until the Civil War broke out and he enlisted. When Lewis returned from service in 1862 he served as assistant post-master for two years under S. J. Taylor, and then entered the business with his father. The factory was built soon afterward. The Wenona map of 1874 shows the Hodge planing mill on Pine Street, and the lumber yard to the east facing on Birch Street, three blocks west of Chestnut.

In the business cards it shows that Hodge had four associates; James Hodge, R. Snodgrass, J. H. Taggart and R. B. Work. They were not only contractors and builders, they also manufactured window sash, doors, blinds, molding etc., and dressed lumber to order.

It is the Gus Beckman home on Pine Street, north of Second Street North, along the G.M.O. Railroad tracks. The Gus Beckman family owned and lived in their planing mill home for over 40 years.

It seems strange to one who buys lumber today that anyone would have their own trees here on the prairies.

PICNICS

Generation after generation of Evans Township people have enjoyed picnicking at shady spots along Old Sandy's banks. Especially popular were the woods known as Kemo's, McAdams', White's and French's. Families, churches, Sunday Schools, clubs and other groups gathered where there was shade, room for games, and the creek where youngsters could wade or dangle their feet in its cool ripples.

At Kemp's timber, northwest of Wenona, there was a wide gate where wagons (or later, cars) could be driven into the grove, and a handy stile for climbing over the fence by the main road. Here was where Bethany Lutheran Church gathered for the big social event of the year every Fourth of July. It was then called "the Swede church" because so many of its members had come from Sweden. Wagons and buggies had real horse power in those days and the "Swedes" adorned the horses with little red, white and blue flags in their bridles for this gala occasion. Upon arriving, they were unhitched and tethered to trees. Bulging picnic baskets were unpacked and the horses were fed oats, usually before the people ate.

There was a stand decorated with bunting where crackerjack, ice cream and pop were sold. Each child was given a slip of paper with two fives written on it. Each five meant a nickel's worth of treats. Five cents would buy a dish of ice cream. Baseball and pitching horseshoes were favorite pastimes. Children too small to do either, turned up their trousers or held up their skirts and waded in the creek. There were no bathing suits. Everybody had a good time.

YOUTH PICNIC DISRUPTED

Ed Lindgren and his sister Lettie (Johnson) recall one hot, sultry day when a youth group planned an outing at Kemp's timber. Their father, C. A. Lindgren, foresaw a storm and warned them not to go. But even in that day, teen-agers sometimes took things into their own hands so they hitched up the horses and went.

The sky turned black, the storm came and the young people scampered for refuge in the nearby Cherry Point M. E. Church which was locked but they climbed through a window. It was so dark they couldn't even see each other. The thunder and lightning were terrific. They wondered about the horses. It poured rain. There was a yelling and pounding at the door. It was Perry Griffin's father calling for help. Perry had gone wading. With the deluge, Sandy was overflowing its banks and the current became so swift it swept the boy downstream. George Esterdahl was the young hero who rescued him. Came the calm after the storm and all was well.

CHAPTER 5.

MIDDLE DECADERS

EVANS STATION

One of the colorful chapters of township history is the story of Evans Station west of Wenona. It was built near the G.M. & O. Railroad tracks in 1853 as a trading post. Grain was hauled to Evans and shipped to Chicago. Farmers came on horseback and in wagons to receive mail and supplies.

For years, F. A. Packingham, colorful Civil War veteran, ran a general store at Evans. In fact, he was postmaster, railway agent and Justice of the Peace too. Rural delivery was yet to come, and he served a multitude of farmers with their mail order and seed catalogues. His postal fixtures were unusually adequate, size of post considered; the array of call boxes (perhaps 100) representing reconstruction of the old Ong pharmacy at Pontiac. Evolution, represented by the advent of rural free delivery, simply put him out of business, because the patrons were no longer attracted for mail and, of course, that spelled an end of store purchases. The historic store building was razed years ago.

Around 1898 or before Mr. Taggart ran an elevator at Evans. Grain was brought to the elevator in lumber wagons drawn by horses. Later Mr. Stotler was associated with the elevator and about 1912, Edward Haugens bought it. Shortly after he acquired it, one Sunday morning in July, it was set on fire by sparks from a C. & A. locomotive, and only for the prompt action of the neighboring farmers the building would have been destroyed. A bucket brigade carried water to the cupola, from where it was thrown onto the flames. A hole in the roof was the only damage done.

The Railroad Station was in operation until after World War I. By then all passenger trains had been taken off the G.M. & O. branch line. At present one freight train goes west one day and comes back east the next day.

The first telephone line was run from Wenona to Evans in 1897 for market reports. Cliff Statler helped build it. Later the line went to Magnolia, Varna and west.

In the late 1920's and 1930 Ed Haugens sold machinery and lumber, traded live stock and had several trucks hauling live stock to the Stock Yards in Chicago.

When illness forced him to retire, his son Bernard took over the elevator, which is still in operation.

CUSTER

Custer, now an abandoned town, was built about 1898. It was located about three miles west of Evans Station on the Wenona-Varna black-top where the Chicago & Alton railroad crossed the Rutland, Toluca & Granville Railroad.

A depot, grain elevator and several homes were built. Ball and Twist built the elevator and Mr. Gene Jenkins, father of Cliff Jenikns, ran it for years. Later Mr. Wilkins operated it and also Bert Palm.

The first section boss was Henry Cook, a negro. James Ryan was the first conductor on the train and Mr. Albert Guderjan remembered him well.

The R.T. & N.R.R. went north to Porterfield, what is now known as the coal washer. Coal was sent there, washed and screened, ready for market. The elevator at Porterfield was also built by Ball and Twist. In later years the railroad was known as Cox's Railroad.

The Custer elevator stopped taking in grain in the late 1920's and was taken down a few years later. Morris Stromgren of Varna was operating the elevator when it closed. The railroad tracks were taken up in the early 1940's.

Albert Guderjan took the last house down at Custer for \$35.

WENONA UNION FAIR

One of the outstanding fairs in the State of Illinois was the Union Fair organized July 15, 1871. The officers of the Association were: President--M. McCall, Vice-president--James Freeman, Recording Sec'y--Thomas Judd, Corresponding Secretary--Cadet Taylor, Treasurer--John A. McCall. The first fair was held in the Wenona Stock Yards, but in October of 1871, shares of stock in the Association were sold, and the money used to purchase 55 acres of land southeast of Wenona where permanent buildings were put up. The Fair was held for twenty consecutive years and attracted huge crowds in its earlier years. In 1872 the Union Fair Gazette, a pamphlet published during the four days of the fair, had a circulation of 1500. That year the farm products show was double that of the State Fair, every entry department was full, and there had been 1832 entries all told.

The prizes were generous and brought good results. Excellent racing programs attracted crowds from a large area. Cliff Stateler recently was recounting how twenty-five cents was ample for a day at the fair for him as a small boy, and that he consumed a large sack of popcorn, another of taffy candy, and had plenty left for what ever might come up. Grant Crone relates a story his father often told them and which he said was Gospel truth. This is the story: He, Oscar Crone, hired to care

for H. Croft's prize cattle on display at the Fair, always alert in the barn to see that no harm came to the fine animals. One night, on hearing a noise, he got up to look around, and a man, holding a gun on him, said: "I am Jesse James. Make no noise and you're safe. I want a place to rest until morning." Crone let him stay and in the morning James was gone.

Interest in the Fair gradually lessened as the years went by, and, at the meeting of the stock holders on August 4, 1892, the Venona Union Fair Association voted 148 to 6 to dissolve the organization and distribute the funds on hand among the stockholders.

GRANGE FAIR

In 1901 Evans Grange organized a Grange Fair and while it was more local than the Union Fair it was an interesting country fair where stock, products, culinary specialties, fruit, preserves and jellies were exhibited and prizes awarded. The members of the Grange Association were Free Thierry, Alfred Judd, Harry Winters, Walter Wilson and Durlee Dunlap. Belle Kreider a former resident of Venona told in an interview last fall that she attended the fair in 1901, entered as a contestant in declamation, and won a scholarship to Dixon College for her prize. Miss Belle Wright, she said, tied a blue ribbon on her arm. She also remembered that she rode a horse, property of Durlee Dunlap, in one of the races. She remembers that the prettiest baby contest was always a popular one. One she remembers had, as some of the entries, Roberta Butcher, Lillita Thierry and Alyce Wilson and Alyce won first prize--a very nice baby buggy. Miss Kreider went the following fall to Dixon College to use her scholarship and doesn't remember much of the Fair after that.

CHAPTER VI

WENONA AND ITS ENTERPRISES

As the decades went by proprietors changed but business continued to increase. Records show in the late 1890's that the new Stanton Hotel had replaced the Hagy Hotel, a Whittaker Hotel operated in the same building where the Wenona Appliance is now situated, and across the I.C. tracks the first building in the block on Locust Street was the Beggs Hotel, a frame building. A large up-to-date livery barn did a flourishing business on the property now owned by Foster Motor Sales, a large Harness Shop operated by George Sprague was on the land where Wenona Produce is now located, and Parret Photography had its studio where the Wenona Coal Office, now a residence, was located. The studio building was moved west after the fire, completely remodeled and is now the home of Mrs. Margaret Nolan.

Wenona had its privately owned Electric Company, first owned and operated by Charles Robinson, John Rader and Anderson Skinner, then operated by Faye Weston and Carl Fosbender until Columbus Kayes bought and operated it until the coming of the Public Service Company.

North of the side of Wenona Unit I, Henry Werling operated a slaughter house, and also had a grocery and meat store on Chestnut Street. Just south of Wenona Rest Haven was a stock yards for shipping on the C&A line, and, where the oil tanks are located now, there was another stock yard to handle the shipping on the I.C.

Because horse and buggy power was the means of local transportation, there were five businesses catering to this trade. R. T. Monk and Bert Hinman had buggy shops, William Huwald had a wagon shop, James McEachern, a blacksmith shop, and Tom Weston a wagon and blacksmith shop. Mr. Cliff Stateler in discussing these places of business said that he remembers how very busy they all were as there was much repair work as well as a large sale of new equipment.

To keep Wenona up-to-date fashion-wise Heflin and Bethard, A. H. Stateler and Sam Fuiks ran dry goods stores, George Grentzner had a Men's Tailor Shop in the south block, Doll Jone's Millinery was located on the second floor of the present Kurrle's Dry Goods and two shoe shops--South-Well's Shoe Store, and The Riedt's Shoe Store furnished the foot wear for the area.

A dollar was a substantial piece of money in the 1890's. Plush parlor sets could be bought for \$35, bedroom sets for \$20 and men's socks cost about .95¢ a dozen pairs. Axel Helander, one of our senior citizens says, that in 1897 he was working for a farmer west of Wenona at \$18 per month. When the knees went out of his overalls, he asked his boss for a dollar

and walked two miles to Wenona. There he purchased a shirt for 25¢, overalls for 35¢, two pairs of gloves for 10¢, 2 pairs of socks for 10¢, had a drink for 5¢, and walked back home with 15¢ in his pocket.

By 1913 there were some new merchants on Chestnut Street. The grocers were G. Beckman and Sons, George S. Monser & Company and Ellison Bros. The hardware stores were Kreider's and Barrett's, Braymen's had a jewelry store, A. Kernwein and Bremer Bros., were new men's clothing merchants and Mattson's was the new shoe store. Vaughn's Drugstore was still in operation and the W. H. Downey Drug Store had opened. Harry Van Horne located in Wenona in 1889 and engaged in the implement business. He remained here until 1918 when he moved to California. M. N. "Mack" Holmstrom had worked for Mr. Van Horne, so Mack continued on in the business. He later sold Chevrolet cars, too. For several years he sponsored a tractor, machinery and radio show at his implement store, serving lunch to the many farmers and townspeople. In the evening motion pictures were enjoyed and the large ball room on the second floor was opened where Barker's Orchestra played square and round dances to several hundred dancers. Mack built the house where the Dale Russell's live on S. Oak and many a morning he got up early and went to Sparland Brick Yard for the bricks for his new home, coming back in time to open his business. He completed their home in 1924.

WENONA--COCA-COLA TOWN OF MIDWEST

April 1st 1937--The December issue of Red Barrel, a coca-cola magazine, carried the following story pertaining to the amount of that beverage that is lapped up by Wenona People:

"In the north central part of Illinois is a small town of Approximately one thousand people. It is in the middle of the great corn belt, and, as you might expect, is a modern farm town, with but one main street and a few residential streets. But this hustling little town has five soda fountains almost within throwing distance of one another, yet each fountain is doing a thriving business--in coca-cola. In fact, all the communities around Wenona call it the Coco-Cola Town of the Middle West, and Wenona prides its nickname. Over Wenona's five fountains approximately forty-five gallons of coca-cola syrup are dispensed each week, or an average of about seven hundred drinks per day for the ten hundred people."

These seven hundred drinks per day do not take into account the number of bottles of the beverage that are consumed also. So it looks like we are rather fond of our coke.

The magazine also carried a picture of Kane's Smoke Shop.

WENONA--TOLUCA GAME

February 15, 1930--The game was for the championship of Marshall County. How well local fans remember that battle. At the end of the fourth quarter the teams were dead-locked at 15 all. The first overtime period saw no change. They were knotted at 17 points at the end of the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh periods of play. It was 19-19 at the end of the eighth, 21-21 when the ninth had come and gone, but in the tenth overtime period Wenona scored seven points to two to win 28-23.

This game made the Chicago newspapers and holds the overtime record.

THE WENONA COAL COMPANY AND ITS MINERS

The Wenona Coal Company was incorporated in 1883 with William M. Hamilton, L. J. Hodge, and E. L. Monser as partners. A few years later Mr. Monser bought out his partners, and the mine was owned by Monsers until it closed down in 1925.

The first immigrants that worked in the mine were Irish and Cockney English who had come to build the railroad and then stayed in Wenona to work in the mine. The Eldons, and Dan Lacey, the Gorman, and Milan families were some of these early residents.

Many immigrants came from central and eastern Europe to work in the mine. The first large group to come to Wenona were from Poland, and by 1900 the families of Levindusky, Vinsec, Kupec, Goscinski, Myskowski, Zulz and many others were here. There were also Austrians and Yugoslavians among whom were the Petrovitch, Brunski, Goropeseck, Blazovitch, Pierman, Obermiller, Cherry and Crocker families.

Along with their fathers, the sons began working in the mine as soon as they were fifteen years old, so often there were several from one family employed. By the year 1910, the depth of the shaft was 576 feet, and the vein of coal three to four feet in thickness. When the mine was at its peak of employment, there were 450 men working, 380 of whom were actually mining coal. The pay roll averaged \$1000 per day, and top production averaged 900 to 1000 tons per eight hour day shift. The coal at first was all hand mined, as there was no machinery available.

The houses of the miners were built by Wenona Contractor Blaine Work and his assistant L. D. Brown for the Monser Coal Company and rented to the employees. East of the Illinois Central tracks several blocks of cottages were built for the miners. Also the street now called Birch in the west part of Wenona consisted of rows of miner's cottages and was nick-named "Chicago Street." Many successful miners began building their own houses in Osage Township until East Wenona was large enough to be incorporated into its own village. For many years George K. Braymen, Wenona Jeweler, was mayor of East Wenona.

These families who came to Wenona to mine coal brought with them their own cultures, traditions and pastimes which lent color and variety to the community, making it a better place for their having come. When the competition from non-union mines of Kentucky, West Virginia, and southern Illinois could not be met by the Monser Coal Company that employed union men, the mine closed in 1925. Many families moved to Chicago, Rockford, LaSalle, West Frankfort or other towns where work

was available. Happily there are still descendants many of the original immigrant families still living in Wenona.

In a recent interview Mrs. Gertrude Kovatch, now eighty-five, related some stories of her early life. A native of a little village, Perenje, Yugoslavia, then a part of Emperor Franz Josef's Austria Hungary, she recalls early experiences. At harvest time the women of the village cut with hand scythe the wheat and rye, did much of the gardening and gathered the plentiful fruits--apples, pears, plums and a kind of cherry--"the sweetest in the world." The farms were very small, and wood was sold for part of the family income. She remembers going up the lower slopes of the mountains with her brother to bring down the logs. She guided the oxen down the mountain as her brother kept the logs in tow. Later she began studying to be a dressmaker, but when her mother and father died she decided to come to live with a brother in Wenona, leaving a brother and his family in her native village.

Mrs. Kovatch, then Gertrude Petrich, left by steamship from Bremen, Germany and was on the water three weeks. The boat was crowded with immigrants and one got sick and died at sea. She commented that the lucky ones were those who had the top hammocks, for sleeping in the steerage was not always sanitary. Coming from New York to Chicago and then to Wenona by train she arrived at her brother's home in December, 1903. She lived there until she married in February, lived until they built their own house where Mrs. Kovatch now lives.

Like her brother, her husband worked in the mine averaging about two dollars a day for the years that he mined. After some years Mr. Kovatch contracted miner's asthma, and he was sick for sixteen years. Mrs. Kovatch says she did washings and ironings, sewed for several families and still managed to care for her husband and family.

She remembers that there were lots of good times in Wenona. When the shaft closed for the holidays or when there were weddings or anniversaries, the mining families met at a hall on the east side, brought their favorite dishes, had their keg of beer, sang their songs learned in childhood and danced their native dances. The young were soon learning the songs and dances of Wenona and had their chances to show off.

Mrs. Kovatch still likes to make dishes which she learned back in Yugoslavia. Her favorite meat dish is a spicy goulash. She likes to make coffee cake, soups with homemade noodles, and a roll of yeast bread stuffed with specially seasoned scrambled eggs and dropped into boiling water to cook.

Mrs. Kovatch's memories show how much tradition has been lost by our failure to record the early experiences of the grandmothers and grandfathers.

WENONA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Wenona Fire Department had its beginnings as the Wenona Hook & Ladder Company in January, 1884. The original members were H. L. Taylor, M. N. Tisdale, J. P. Dicus, F. H. Bramt, D. C. Stateler, C. Erwin, C. F. Swift, E. E. Patch, D. M. Hunt, A. L. Patch, S. B. Patch, Charles Hoge, William Huwald, Justin Brown, Chas. Cahoon, F. C. Chambers, W. E. Upton, D. E. Work, Charles Robinson, George Wilson, George Hodge, J. C. Ramsey, George Hunt, D. F. Gill and G. Kendall. H. L. Taylor was the first Chief, with D. C. Stateler as his assistant. In April, 1895, the name was changed to the Wenona Fire Department.

In the early days, the firemen used what was known as Babcocks, which were tanks of water carried on the back of one fireman, and the water pumped out of them by means of a hand pump by another fireman. It was not until after the City had the mains installed that a pumper was purchased.

About 1915 the fire department was discussing need for a motor truck to haul the hose. The complaint was that the firemen wore themselves out dragging the heavy hose cart by hand to the fires.

In late years the Wenona Fire District was formed, and a modern, High-pressure truck with the latest equipment was purchased, making a total of four trucks. They still have the old hook and ladder. Kenneth Grimm is the present Fire Chief and is ably assisted by volunteer firemen.

C. B. SCOTT LUMBER COMPANY

Edward Becher, who was in charge of the Becher mill, added a lumber yard to the old mill property about 1890 and his foreman was Charles B. Scott, son of a local business man, Sam Scott. Mr. Scott became the husband of his employer's daughter, Miss Mercy Becher, in 1894 and purchased the business when Mr. Becher retired. Later he bought the down-town lumber yard of Mr. Cook, which is now the Allen Lumber Company. He was in business there from 1900 to 1938.

The site of the old Becher flouring mill and lumber yard was east of the Illinois Central tracks where the State Highway Department buildings are. The mill was used for lumber storage for a time and finally torn down.

After Mr. Scott's death in 1938, Mrs. Scott carried on the business with the assistance of Mr. Clifford Stateler, valued manager and salesman for years. When he retired, the yard was sold in 1949 to the Allen Lumber Company.

BURGESS' BROTHERS--IMPORTERS OF DRAFT HORSES

One of the most colorful pages in the history of Wenona tells the story of the Burgess stock farm and the two Burgess brothers, Robert and Charles, who began dealing in horses when they were twenty-four and twenty-two years of age. They became the leading American importers of registered draft horses of the Shire, Belgian, Percheron and French breeds. Their long record of successful operation from 1876 to the early 20's is a major success story.

Their sales stables were located east of the Illinois Central tracks. Whenever a new shipment of horses landed in New York from Europe the American flag was raised on the stable. When buyers came the big powerful animals were curried and brushed to perfection and paraded up and down, as their outstanding merits and lineage were discussed. Here were the horses who were the conquerors of the deepest mud and heaviest loads. Ingrained pride was in every line of their magnificent bodies and the gallant pose of their heads.

The stallions and mares of the herd were prize winners in every show they entered. The International Livestock show in Chicago champion stallion for four years was from the Burgess stables and one year at St. Louis three grand champions. These were only two of the many successful competitive showings.

When Robert Burgess landed in New York in 1870 he had fifteen dollars in his pocket. He came west to Ottawa, where he worked on a farm for two years. He joined there by his younger brother, Charles, about a year later. They were the sons of a Devonshire, England, farmer and had been raised to farm life.

When opportunity offered Robert purchased a half interest in a half-breed stallion for \$400. This was the beginning of his long dealings in horses. In 1876 the young men began buying and selling horses and early in the 1880's began importing thoroughbred Shire horses. Soon they were dealing in horses on the national scale. The fact that in 1893 they won 27 prizes, at the World's Fair in Chicago, helped to spread the fame of their stables from one end of the country to the other.

The brothers were in partnership until about 1896 when they decided to retire and separate. Charles devoted his time to land interest. Robert could not make up his mind to give up the business and soon took his son, Charles, into business with him. In the ensuing years, as before, he spent several months each year in France, England and Belgium buying horses for shipment to America.

TELEPHONE IN WENONA

History has been affected more or less by all the inventions of man but the telephone has been so intimately connected with man's living that it can't be passed over lightly in Evan's Township's chronicles and the one person who has given forty-six years of splendid service to telephone and people is Miss Minnie Huwald.

In 1910 Minnie was just out of high school with a certificate which would permit her to teach school. But Miss Tracy Houston had just resigned as night operator at the Independent Telephone Company to move to Chicago, so Minnie decided to give the job a try. The Independent Telephone, which began in 1896 had its switchboard located upstairs to the rear in the building just vacated by the Marty Drug Store. Judge D. H. Gregg had his law office upstairs at the front of the building. Frank Ong was manager of the company; Dr. S. G. Peterson and Frank Ames of Rutland and Dr. George T. Love of Wenona were its directors. There was also in Wenona the Farmer's Telephone Company managed by Charles Hannam who lived in the house now owned by Donald Robinson, and he managed the business from his home. This company was later moved to quarters above Walter Wenzlaff's cabinet shop. Later the two telephone companies merged and were called Illinois Telephone Company. In 1928 the new brick building was completed and Sam Potter of Magnolia was the first general manager there. Later Adolph Schwanke became president serving for several years until he left Wenona and William Crumrine then took the office. Within the last few years the company has been completely reorganized and enlarged and is now part of the General Telephone Company.

In 1910 Minnie's night shift was from 9 P.M. to 7 A.M., and stayed that way until the forty-hour week law was passed when her shift began at 11 o'clock. A familiar sight at a few minutes before the hour was Minnie arriving with her Tribune, a magazine and an apple. After midnight when the board was quiet Minnie caught up on her reading.

Musing over the past experiences in telephoning brings home the fact that the human element in our living is missing today in the machine age. Minnie recounts her funniest experience as follows: It was the day of the Kentucky Derby. Minnie's answer was: Behave yourselves first. Minnie had to repeat the answer. Then Mary Stanton turned to her desk clerk, Julius Krueger with the remark, "That imprudent telephone operator said I have to behave myself first."

Minnie was always able to locate relatives in an emergency and many stories are told of her finding help when a new baby decided to arrive unexpectedly or when severe illness came suddenly. Kate Burgess and Cora Monser said they felt safe when Minnie was at the switchboard. Once Minnie

heard Mrs. Burgess call Lucy, her daughter, and drop the receiver so Minnie at once called Lucy who found her mother ill.

Nostalgic memories--When Mr. Schwanke left the office for the evening, he always fixed the furnace. Previously he had made a long handle for the girls' pop corn popper. So Cecilia Hawes, the early evening operator and Minnie had their snack of pop corn with coke sent over from Kane's Smoke House across the street. Pat Sullivan, a small boy then, would sometimes bring the coke and ask questions as he watched the switch board. One time he was thrilled to be there when Minnie put a call through to Paris. Sometimes Minnie would be a bit afraid. Julius and Paul Uebler, proprietors of a restaurant in the middle block, told her to call them if she heard anything strange as they kept a gun. One night someone seemed to be walking back and forth in the outer office. Minnie called and whom did they find? Judge Dan Gregg's shepard was walking back and forth in the outer office. Minnie had another fear--bad electric storms. Once she remembers several weeks of hot dry weather produced a tremendous storm one night with fire playing all around the switch board. The fire alarm had to be sounded--then news of another fire came and Kenneth Grimm called from outside the window, "Minnie, blow the whistle again." Petrified, she followed orders and finally the storm subsided. Another night the drops came down all the time, so she called the night watchman Mark Peterson, and he found a fire burning in the roof of K. Axline's store. Quick action saved the building.

What was Minnie's most exciting experience? The blizzard of March, 1947. The snow began Monday noon March 24th and traffic was moving again Wednesday afternoon. There were 400 people marooned in Wenona. All beds were filled at the Stanton Hotel, all possible homes that had rooms were filled and late comers had to relax as much as possible in Stanton Hotel lobby. The switchboard was swamped with calls, regular operators couldn't get to work, so Minnie worked 18 hours without rest, and Hotel Stanton sent her her meals.

The late John Marks said, "Minnie you should write a book." Her answer: "If I did, I wouldn't dare let it be published until after my death." "I know too much."

Margaret Lawless who worked at the Wenona Produce during Minnie's years at the swirchboard wrote in the Index: "To me it was always interesting to watch Minnie, Cecil Hawes, Margaret and Alice Hogan on duty, seated at the swirchboard. With one hand they held the myriad lines coming from the poles of the company, while with the other they wove these wires into the fabric of the country, and as they wove the pattern grew--farms, villages, cities, churches, schools, homes--all woven into the communication system that tells the history of the nation."

The cheerful "number, please" is gone and now in its place the dial can get you Chicago, Los Angeles, or Honolulu with ease.

WENONA GREENHOUSE

Just as Jacob worked seven years to win his beloved Rachel, so William Metzger worked for seven years for the father of the girl he wanted to marry before he had accumulated enough capital to go to farming. Mr. Metzger was luckier than Jacob however. He won the girl in seven years instead of fourteen.

He and his bride, the former Alvina Schwanke, daughter of John G. Schwanke, farmed the land of Mrs. Clara Fort of Lecon, for eight years before William decided he wanted to go into the greenhouse business to raise flowers. His father had been the overseer of a large hunting estate near Wittenberg, Germany, and he had enjoyed working with his father in the gardens and orchards of the estate.

William Metzger had come to the United States when he was twenty-one years old and he was well into his thirties before he was ready to launch out for himself. He had a family of five children.

He purchased the five acre plot of ground which was the nucleus of the greenhouse property when there was nothing on it except some Osage hedge. By the end of his first year he had two greenhouses 25 by 50 feet and was well started on his chosen career.

"Every start is hazardous," Mrs. Metzger said when she was asked about the difficulties of getting started. He and his wife were hard workers and the children helped when they were not in school.

Hard times came of course but nothing disastrous except the hail storm of 1913, when fully a third of the greenhouse was shattered. It was a bad blow for there was no insurance.

The children grew up and received good educations and the little greenhouses of 1907 with a total of 2,500 square feet of beds had become 28,000 square feet under glass.

Gerald "Gary" for short, chose to follow in his father's footsteps, run the plant, assisted by his wife Evadell and a competent staff. Gary expressed approval of the work being done in the experiment stations at Cornell and Ohio Universities and the University of Illinois. Improved varieties of flowers, disease controls and soil testing to find the correct fertilizer for any given soil, all have contributed greatly to the production of plants which was double that of 50 years ago in the same space.

In 1949 Mr. and Mrs. William Metzger celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and Mr. Metzger died the following year. Gary continued to operate the greenhouse until 1957 when he sold it to John Lohr.

RADIO ST. JOHN WLBI

It was in December 1926 that Wenona really got on the map. Here we were, a little town at the crossroads of routes 17 and 51, and we were going to have a radio broadcasting station, the smallest town in the country to have one!

Al Yarc, who had maintained an amateur station at his home in East Wenona for several years, was granted a broadcasting license by the radio commission at Washington D. C. and assigned the call letters WLBI and a wave length of 296. Mr. Yarc's knowledge of radio was self acquired until he attended the Valparaiso Radio Institute where he graduated in the radio course. He had taken up radio when it first started to attract the world.

Rev. Robert L. Finney Reznar, of St. John's Methodist Church was the promotor of the project and through his activity and enterprise he and Mr. Yarc put Wenona indelibly on the map. Rev. Reznar was program director, announcer and arranger, and Mr. Yarc, owner and operator. Together they gave Wenona and the surrounding community a lot of entertainment, news, weather, and vital statistics.

WLBI was on the air for the first time Sunday, January 2, 1927 when the 11 A. M. worship service were broadcast from St. John's Methodist Church. That afternoon there was an organ concert by Mrs. Reznar, wife of the pastor.

The station's programs for some time were limited to the church service in the morning, with a variety program, mostly local talent--and Wenona had plenty--Sunday afternoons.

Early in February 1927 the station was moved from the Yarc home to the front room in the Stanton Hotel basement which had been fitted up as a studio through the cooperation of J. L. Becker, the hotel owner. The broadcast plant proper was still at the Yarc home.

Letters began to come in from a wide area when listeners heard WLBI and wrote to congratulate Wenona on their entertaining programs. One letter came from as far as Rock River, Wyo.

The studio graduated from a Sunday only program to a daily broadcast. Local merchants provided some of the material and any church or organization program was sure to find a spot on the air. What was listed as the first "educational program" was broadcast in March when the debating teams of the Wenona Community High School debated on the question of "Resolved that a Department of Education be created by Congress and a Secretary of Education be added to the Cabinet." For the affirmative were Marion Whitney, Edward Beckman, Edmund Metzger; for the negative Harold Whitney, Iliff Jackson, and William Uebler.

Ella Marie White, a Wenona prodigy, appeared at least twice a week with readings. The Lone Scout hour each Monday evening was the only program of its kind in the United States with George B. Robinson of LaSalle conducting the period of instruction for WLBI Lone Scouts. Between scheduled programs records were played and many requests were called in. The announcer was never known as a "disc jockey". Programs were listed each week in the Index.

In March 1927 a new power plant was built on the roof of the Index

office on South Main Street with a new motor, generator, and equipment to make a 500 Watt Station. After June 1st the wave length was changed from 296 wave length to 238 meters.

For practical purposes the studio closed during the summer of 1927 and opened again in October when their new studio was opened on the second floor of the M. N. Holmstrom Implement store on South Main Street and Rev. Rezner promised another good winter of entertainment.

In May 1928 WLBI was dealt its first blow when Rev. Rezner left Wenona to live in DeKalb. Later that month the Federal Radio Commission dealt another blow when it moved to cancel the licenses of 169 small radio stations throughout the country. The local station was one of the stations listed and by June WLBI signed off permanently.

WENONA INDEX

In 1865 Jerry S. Grable and Fred L. Crosby were two young men who came to Wenona to start a newspaper. After advance preparations were over and a fairly complete history of the first years of the town compiled, issue No. 1, Volume I of the Wenona News Index went to press and everyone in town could have a free copy if he or she wished. It was a seven column, four page folio. Soon Grable became sole owner and he continued until 1867 when he sold to W. Parker. In June 1870 Cadet Taylor bought the paper. In 1880 Otis Montgomery joined the Taylor's and in 1898 Mr. Taylor sold out to Mr. Montgomery. He continued to publish the Index until April 1929 when he sold to Mr. N. F. Purcell a capable newspaper man from Mechanicsville, Iowa. The depression was at its height while he was editor and it was a trying time for everyone. Mr. Purcell died in September 1942 and his business was sold to Ray Link. Few editors were more history conscious than Mr. Link. He urged that the old stories of Evans Township, Sandy settlement and the city he preserved through publication in the Index. The Wenona Index is now housed in the remodeled Scope Theatre, the move from the south block being forced by a fire in December 1948. Floyd Johnson, our present Index Editor, went to work in the office in 1929 and learned his trade from Mr. Purcell. He continued to work for Mr. Link and in 1954 Floyd purchased the Index, just two weeks before Mr. Link died.

"Index" editors down through the years have taken their work seriously and with a philosophy well expressed by Howard L. Taylor when he sold the paper to Otis Montgomery in 1898, his valedictory—"Index policy has always been to be 'for' rather than 'against' undertakings of every legitimate character and to advocate those things which seemed beneficial to the town and in addition to make a local newspaper of influence a credit to the town."

ARMY RADAR SITE

In January 1958, Wenona's famous old landmark, the "Coal Dump", which has aroused the curiosity of thousands of tourists, was chosen as the site of an army radar station. Capt, Ernest J. Arnold had conducted a survey within a radius of 200 miles of the Chicago--Gary defense for locations. He was very much impressed with the coal dump, and the fact that the Coal Company offices were available. The purpose of the radar station was to safeguard the metropolitan areas of Chicago, Gary, and Milwaukee with an earlier warning capability than had previously been available. It was manned by U. S. Army Anti Aircraft Personnel with approximately 20 soldiers from the regular army.

In February the initial work was started with the grading off of 30 feet of the 125 foot high coal dump, to provide a flat surface for buildings. A circular roadway was built around the dump with entrance on the north west corner, off Route 17. A six strand barbed wire fence surrounded the base of the reddish hued slag pile as sightseers were not allowed within the enclosure. A special grass was planted to keep the road from sliding, but it was difficult to keep it in good condition.

The installation consisted of two metal buildings and a huge radar antenna. One of the metal structures--housing radar equipment, office and storage space and recreation room--occupied a space 20 by 40 feet. The second building, containing an emergency diesel unit and commercial power installations was also 20 by 40 feet. The radar antenna, a concave fan made of steel, was 40 feet from tip to tip and 15 feet high. This apparatus--when in use--revolved a full 360 degrees six times a minute in scanning the heavens for aircraft.

The supply and maintenance shop, located in the Coal Office, had personnel on duty 24 hours a day.

Sleeping quarters, a dining room, kitchen and office were provided for the service men on the second floor of the Goodwin building in downtown Wenona, and in apartments in Hotel Stanton.

On the week-end of April 18th, open house was held and the public was invited to visit the installation. It was estimated that several thousand visited the site. Visitors were conveyed in two station wagons which left from the barracks area. The barracks were also open to inspection.

The station was in operation until December of 1959 when all stations were moved back to the Chicago defense area.

WENONA CITY PARK

The Wenona City Park was born from two fellows, Mr. Andy Bishop and Dr. Willis A. Myers on a street corner one evening, and although Mr. Myers died some time before the park plans began, Andy always kept the idea in mind.

Some time later the Grade school was discontinued and a new building was constructed. Andy was elected mayor, and I was elected alderman. When Andy Bishop resigned I was appointed and later elected for several terms.

We had no money and lots of free advice. Many people didn't care if we had a park. I told Andy that it would take about eleven years to finish it, but we would not let anyone change our plans.

We first appointed Mr. Edward Donnelly treasurer. Believe me, it was "no easy picnic". I went to the Community High District to see if they would sell the school ground back to the city for one dollar as the city had sold it to them. The vote was five to one to transfer it back.

We started to work making one project pay for another. Taking and widening the depth of the ditch on the west end of town was one job. The top dirt we sold, and the yellow clay we used to cover the ground from six to eighteen inches deep. We also started a tree planting program. There are over sixty different trees, and also the four trees that were on the west side of the Legion Hall which were to commemorate the memory of World War I veterans. These trees are now on the south side of the park, that is to say east of the ball diamond and tennis courts.

First we built a Little League ball diamond using pickets we borrowed from the state, later a permanent fence of oak. With a backstop and dugout. As we started to take down the old school we wanted to save all the pipe and sell what we could. There is always an accident and yours truly happened to be the one. As I was taking the pipe out, I hit one of the elbows and the whole string of pipe came down and broke my ladder. I had a nice soft landing, fell about sixteen feet. Yes, on a cement floor! I was laid up for about four months. They said I wouldn't walk, but I had other ideas.

Andy had a tool shed which he gave to the Park and it kept our equipment. It is located back of the fence in centerfield with a nice score board "thanks to the Coca Cola Company".

Next we built the rest rooms and storage place which, I might say, are nice and are kept clean. Then I got the Chamber of Commerce to donate the proceeds left from the Centennial for playground equipment. We went to Indiana and got baby swings, youth swings, a merry-go-round, a slide and a Jungle Jim. These are put on the south side. Andy made over hand ladders, one to go on the south side and one on the north; also we put up a large slide and large swings. Then we built three tennis courts

and the basket ball court with a ten foot fence for protection, also a drinking fountain with tree and flower beds.

Next we built the Broken Arrow. This is quite a building. It has all the conveniences, a large shelf, hot and cold water, with door that opens up for serving, a place for storing pop, and when not in use, we have a large door in front which opens so that coke or whatever you like can be served by machine. In the front we have a hitching rail and a flag pole. Many may wonder why the date 1891 is on the Broken Arrow. That's the date the old school was built.

Building the shelter was something else. I believe Andy and I made every shelter in the state and they all lacked something. In 1962 we laid the foundation and filled it with gravel. It did my heart good to see the kids. They danced and played all kinds of games. One little girl even asked me to dance. We ran water for the drinking fountains on the north and south sides. In 1963 we built the frame. This is built of 8" by 8' with poles between and an approach made on four sides. In 1964 the top was put on, and I want to thank the good people who helped. They put the sheeting on one night, and then came back and shingled it the next. Then we put in a ceiling so you don't have any birds. We put lighting and outlets at all four corners and a sidewalk around the shelter.

The flower beds are taken care of by the good ladies of the Garden Club. The large glad pole in back of centerfield was erected by the Junior Woman's Club. Bird houses were built and squirrel houses, some of the money being donated by various organizations. Benches, tables and picnic tables were built. One may wonder why the five and eleven on the clock on the north and south are of different color. It is to show the little ones it is time to go home.

I want to thank Andy Bishop for all he has done, and all the good people who helped in any way, and those who gave financial help. A special thanks to Mrs. Edward Donnelly for so much work and so little thanks. But when we see the children playing, aren't we glad we live in America?

J. P. Manley, Mayor

Andrew Bishop
Superintendent of Maintenance
& Construction

Wm. Frank Pickard
City Clerk

Genevieve Hallam
City Treasurer

Aldermen

Clarence Pomerence
Edward Maikels
Konald Kane
Frank Hill
Walter Wenzloff
James Kupec

CHAPTER VII

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE! AS REPORTED AUGUST 17, 1890

The long looked for fire in the south block came Sunday forenoon, August 17, 1890. The destruction of buildings complete--Greater part of stocks and household effects were saved in damaged condition.

Is it not lesson enough to induce our people to make a move for water works? New Brick buildings already contemplated, with possibly a brick hotel among the number Contract already being let.

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The quietness of the usual Sabbath was broken about half past eleven o'clock last Sunday morning, by an alarm of fire, which was caused by smoke issuing from the southeast corner of the third story of what was known as the Parker building. The hook and ladder truck and many people responded quickly but the location of the fire was such, together with the fact that the babcocks failed to work satisfactorily, that it could not be readily reached and the result was that in a short time the fire had spread over the building to such an extent that it was beyond control with the apparatus at command. Notwithstanding the Parker building burned quite slowly to all outward appearances, it is evident that the fire was making headway inside the building in a way that meant a great loss in that and surrounding buildings in a short time. Many people who to the alarm worked manfully but at each point where an effort was made to check the fire they were driven back by the flames, the fire making its way north and south, the frame buildings on either side being ready food for it. Fortunately the fire burned slow enough to permit the removal of a large part of the contents of all the building except possibly the Parker building, which was largely machine repairs of various kinds. The fire was not long in enveloping the Parker building and almost immediately spread to the Lauf building on the south and quickly after to the Sullivan building on the north. At this time there was no hope whatever of saving the three buildings of the north, including the Clifton Hotel on the north corner of the block, all three of them being frame and built closely together, but there was here room for hope that the fire might be checked at the McGee brick building next south of the Lauf building, but the presence of water in the way of stationing willing workers with a supply of water at the different windows on the north in the brick building proved fruitless, as when

the fire broke through on the south side of the Lauf building, it shot through the windows of the McGrath brick building as if fired from a gun and the workers inside were driven from their posts. An effort was also made to cut out an entrance way between the Lauf and McGrath buildings, with the hope that its removal might prevent transmission of the flames from one building to the other so readily, but the short time for the work was not sufficient to accomplish it, and when the fire reached this passage it made its way through the hall-way in the McGrath building at such a pace that those inside had to move rapidly to get out of the way of it, and in far less time than it takes to tell it the entire inside of the McGrath building was burning. The next building on the south was the two-story frame building owned and occupied by James Morrissey as residence and saloon, which soon went the way of the others, the fire probably reaching it first through the windows and a frame building in the rear of the McGrath building used as a kitchen for the Whitaker hotel. In the meantime hard work was being done to tear down the blue front building and the McQuaid shop with the hope that their removal would stop the southward progress of the fire. The effort on the blue front was successful, the building being torn down and a good part of it pulled out and carried beyond reach of the fire, but the work on the McQuaid shop was not ~~too~~ successful, only a portion of it being torn down when the fire reached it and it was removed, but not by the willing hands that had worked so faithfully to get it out of the way. Notwithstanding the residence of Mrs. F. P. Monser had been thoroughly wet with water, and ample time was had to remove almost the entire contents, the heat had become so great that the fire was quickly communicated to it and that also was destroyed. As the fire progressed, the sheds, barns, and ice house on the rear end of the Sullivan lot, etc., became enveloped in flames, from which coal houses on the rear end of a couple of A. H. Stateler's tenement lots, across the alley, and the store house of Hoge Brothers were fired and destroyed. At this point there was also hot and hard work to keep the fire from going further west and destroying the Huwald shop, Chinese Laundry, City Hall, etc., but fortunately there was a slight change in the wind at just the right time which aided very materially, together with a couple of vacant lots between the Hoge building and Huwald shop in checking the progress of the fire in that direction, and the work of destruction by the flames was practically completed.

In the early stages of the fire Mayor Charles Burgess Sr. telegraphed to LaSalle for a steam fire engine, and the summons for aid was responded to as quickly as possible, but too late for the LaSalle Fire Company to accomplish much, and yet in ample time to prevent further destruction of property, as would undoubtedly have been the case had there been much of a wind during the fire.

In 28 minutes after receiving the notice the LaSalle firmen had made the run from their engine house to the I. C. depot in LaSalle and had their steamer and hose cart loaded on the cars ready to start--in the mean-time Wallace lighthart, I. C. Agent at LaSalle, had given the necessary directions to have the locomotive and cars in readiness for the fire engine,--and about 37 minutes were required to make the run to Wenona. The engine pulling the train was an old switch engine and not

fitted for an extra fast run, and yet, all things considered LaSalle came out to aid with a promptness and good will that made our people feel grateful. The steamer was located at the old I. C. tank well southeast from the fire and soon had two streams of water on the ruins, one of which was turned upon the yet burning kitchen of the Mrs. Monser residence, and in a few minutes our people had an opportunity of seeing what a steamer or even a good water system and plenty of water with sufficient force, can do with a fire. The LaSalle firemen continued to play upon the ruins until the water in the well got below the reach of the suction of their steamer, when the firemen were taken to Payne's for dinner, by Mayor Burgess, given a box of cigars and asked what their bill was, but the reply was that they had no bill. The Mayor then informed the Chief that they would hear from Wenona later, which probably means a nice little present to the LaSalle firemen. The LaSalle fire apparatus was loaded upon the cars after all danger was over and all had been done that could be done, and with three cheers and a tiger for Wenona, our LaSalle visitors departed, followed by much gratefulness on the part of our people for their prompt response to the Mayor's appeal for help.

THE LOSSES—While it is a hard matter to make an accurate estimate of the loss sustained by the different occupants of the buildings destroyed and the building owners the following will give a pretty correct idea, and in round numbers in the neighborhood of \$30,000 to \$35,000.

Peter Hagen, two-story frame building,—Clifton House—and saloon building adjoining barn, shed, etc., loss \$4,000; insurance \$2,050. The buildings were occupied by Andy Rogers with hotel and saloon, who succeeded in moving nearly everything, and his loss will be light but the goods were more or less damaged. No insurance.

Mike Sullivan, two-story frame building, the second story occupied by him as residence, and the first floor by Sullivan & Lauf's saloon. Contents generally saved, but in somewhat damaged condition. Sullivan's loss about \$2,000; no insurance.

The three-story frame building known as the Parker building, owned by Mrs. Nellie Montgomery, of Petersburg, and the building in which the fire started, was valued at about \$1,000; no insurance. Uncle Charley Parker had quite a lot of machine repairs in the building, office fixtures, etc., nearly all of which were destroyed.

Wm. Lauf's loss on two-story frame building, --the old Mills building,—owned and occupied by him as proprietor of the Windsor Hotel, together with contents will probably reach \$4,000, on which he had \$1,300 insurance. Considerable of contents was saved but more or less damaged.

Charles Hoge carried about \$1,500 worth of groceries, on which there was \$500 insurance. Most of the goods were carried out, but what amount was saved an invoice will probably have to determine.

Frank Barret carried in the neighborhood of a \$3,000 stock of

hardware, etc., probably over that rather than under, on which he had \$1,000 insurance. While the stock generally was removed how much was saved had not been determined.

The Whitaker Hotel occupied the next room, and the rooms above in the McGrath brick building. The value of furniture, fixtures, carpets, etc. was probably not less than \$3,000 on which there was \$1,200 insurance. The contents of the hotel was nearly all carried out, but considerable is in a damaged condition, and no small quantity was burned by being deposited too close to the burning building after being removed from other buildings.

Thomas McGrath's loss on brick buildings was probably \$6,5000; no insurance.

James Morrissey's loss on two-story frame building and saloon below, will probably foot up \$2,000, the contents being mostly saved; insurance \$1,000.

William McQuaid carried \$400 insurance on his shop and contents, and his loss will be light.

The "blue front", owned by Mrs. Koutz was probably worth \$300.

Loss on the Mrs. F. P. Monser residence will perhaps come near \$1,000; no insurance. Contents generally saved.

The burning of Hoge Bros. store house and contents, located across the alley from the burned district, will probably cause them a loss of \$1,000. Some of the contents, which was made up of farm machinery, wagons, stoves., etc., was saved. By the way, this building was the old Presbyterian church, and one of the old land marks.

A. H. Stateler sustained small loss by destruction of coal houses, etc., and William Huwalt's shop was somewhat disfigured by an effort to tear it down, with the idea perhaps of preventing further progress of the fire.

At one time portions of Jack Kane's building, at the corner of the brick block, was on fire, but quickly extinguished, and his loss will be practically covered by exchanging cash for an outside stairway, the one he had being torn down.

NOTES ON THE FIRE

W. McQuaid has moved his shop to the rooms over Isaac Vaughn's drug store.

Can Wenona afford to continue without a system of water works for fire protection?

Some of the goods removed were burned after being carried into the street or alley.

William Lauf of the Windsor Hotel has rented the George Swift house as an abiding place.

Water works or a steam fire engine would have prevented the greater part of Sunday's losses by fire.

Frank Barrett has his goods stored in the Foundry Buildings, where he will do business for the time being.

Charley Hoge is temporarily quartered in the rear part of the Jack Kane brick building with his grocery stock.

We heard of but little thieving during the fire. Probably the fire occurring in daylight prevented anything of this nature.

A bureau was started down a ladder, but not being endowed with life it landed on the ground in no less than a thousand pieces.

No such destruction of property has occurred in Wenona for over twenty years,--the big fire was twenty years ago the 17th of last May.

The city council met Monday morning and very wisely and properly included Block 16 in the fire limits, which mean brick business buildings in that block.

It is reported that during the excitement a baby was thrown out of a second story window of the Clifton House, landing safely among the crowd below. We give this for what it is worth.

Andy Rogers has rented the basement and second story of the INDEX building and is fixing it up to keep boarders, etc. Andy had only just gotten nicely settled in the Clifton Hotel when the fire came.

After the fire a large piece of ice was found intact in Mrs. Monser's badly charred ice box. A good recommendation for Mark Tisdale's ice. It seemed to stand the heat of the fire better than the summer's heat.

Washington, Metamora, El Paso, Minonk, Mendota, Fairbury, and other towns no larger than Wenona, have water works and it is a shame that Wenona stands back and makes no move for protection against losses by fire.

Hoge Bros.' store house contained about 75 to 80 stoves; about half of them being stored by different individuals for the summer, which will tend to cause many investments in heating stoves this fall.

The Whitaker hotel folks are quartered in the Doede brick building in the north block, but had to wait for the insurance adjuster to come before doing anything in the way of getting in shape to do business.

Jimmy Fee and Tommy Barker were on hand with a team ready to haul the LaSalle fire engine and hose cart to the desired location upon its

arrival and they were not long in locating both after the train arrived.

All three of Wenona's hotels went up in smoke and to-day the town is without much of anything in the way of hotel accommodations but within a day or two perhaps several places will be fitted up so as to give the people something to eat and a place to sleep.

The lot owners in the block have all agreed to set the line of their lots back eighteen feet which will increase the width of the street that much, and put the buildings back to within twelve feet of the brick block line all, of which was a wise thing to do.

A remark we heard during the fire had much good sound sense to profit from. While the "faithful few" were tugging with chains, axes, etc., and the many were standing around with plenty of advice, one of the workers said, "Here, you fellows who ain't working can carry the water!"

Sunday was a day of absolute forgetfulness of self in Wenona. Dinner hour was postponed till late in the afternoon, then families straggled in one at a time to eat hurriedly and away again to help the unfortunate people collect, sort out and move their goods to some temporary abiding place.

Mike Sullivan had lumber on the ground long before noon Monday for a temporary building in which to do business until something better can be put up at which time the temporary structure is to be moved back to the rear end of the lot for a barn or shed. Mike's family moved into the A. Miller residence.

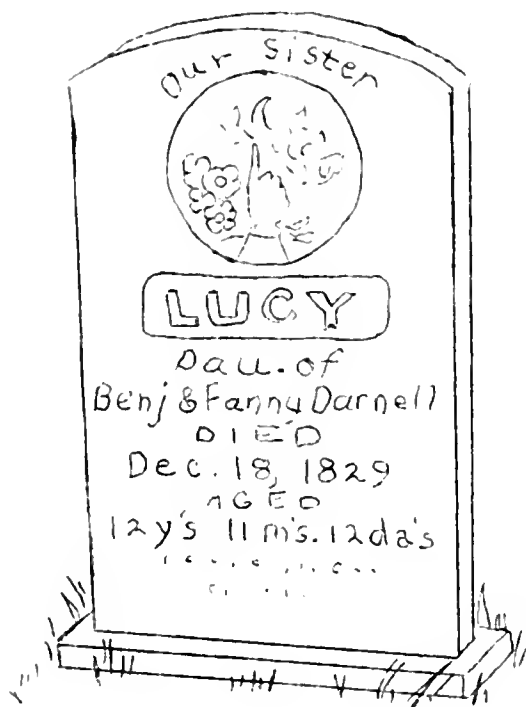
Uncle Charley Parker's safe did not stand the fire test and the contents came out in bad shape Tuesday when the safe was opened, among the contents was about \$50 in bills, including a couple issued by the First National Bank of Wenona. The remnants of the bills will be sent to Washington for redemption.

The Howe & Tisdale elevators were in a decidedly warm place for a time. The fire was far the hottest on the North elevator, and the fact that it is covered with iron is no doubt the only thing that saved it. A slight change of the wind to the west just at the proper time had a tendency to carry the heat west instead of east and that also aided in saving the elevator. Even under these circumstances the new elevator had a very close call.

Thomas McGrath's loss on his brick building--three first floor rooms and the building used for the Whitaker Hotel,--was very heavy and he didn't have any insurance on it. Tom was even out of town when the fire occurred but returned that evening, and on Monday telephoned to McShane Bros., of Lonsant to come to Wenona. Before evening he had contracted with them for 66,000 bricks for use in rebuilding. Mike Sullivan, who also had no insurance, and others have their eye on a similar move, and from all indications several brick structures may be erected before cold weather. That's the sort of men and enterprise that makes a good town.

CHAPTER VIII

LUCY DARNELL--FIRST BURIAL IN CUMBERLAND CEMETERY

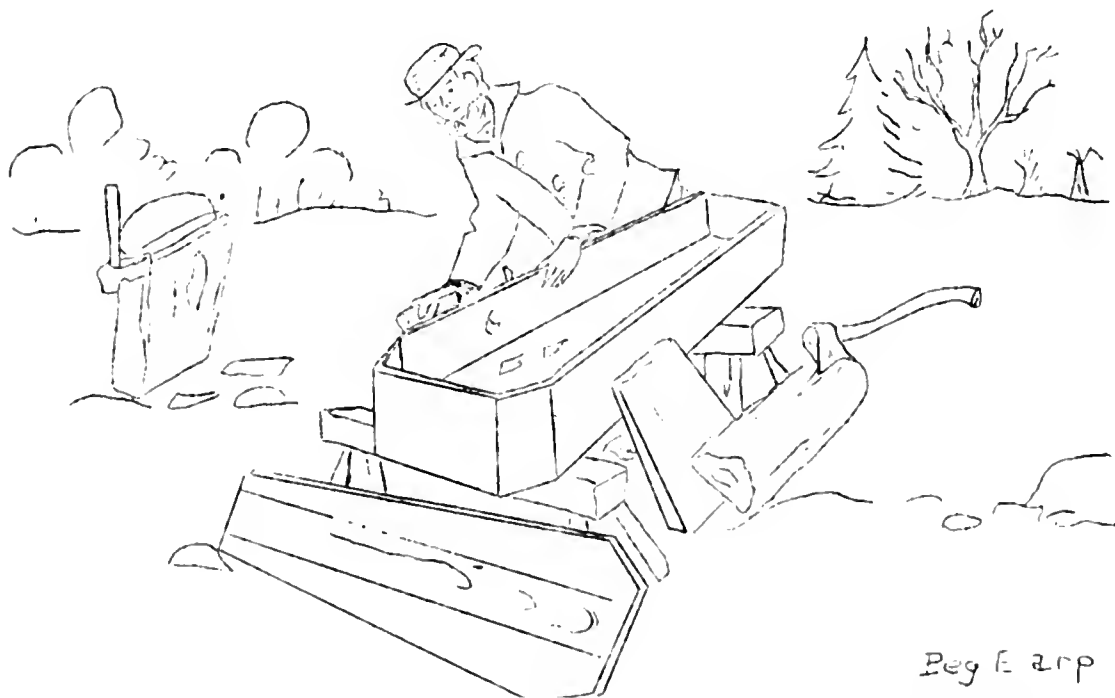


-Peg Earp

LUCY DARNELL, daughter of Benjamin and Fanny Darnell, died on December 18, 1829, at the age of 12 years, 11 months and 12 days.

Expert craftsmanship was needed to make the casket for her remains. A fine workman with crude tools cut a black walnut tree, split it into suitable pieces, carved and fashioned the log into a casket of respectable appearance. In this Lucy Darnell's body was placed for burial.

A grave was dug on a little knoll near the house and this was the first burial in what later became the beautiful Cumberland Cemetery. The spot is designated by a white marble marker upon which is engraved her name, age and date of death.



Peg Earp

FROM CUMBERLAND CEMETERY RECORDS

Cumberland Cemetery is one of the oldest in this part of Illinois. It is situated in the northwest part of Evans Township, Marshall County, Illinois. The natural beauty of the setting and its wooded background present a quiet and peaceful spot the year around. Its history dates back to 1829 when the first grave was dug. Fort Darnell, a refuge for early settlers during the Black Hawk war, stood near this location.

At a public meeting held on the 19th. of October 1875 near the Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Sandy, the following citizens appeared to form a cemetery association: A. G. Martin, Peter Defenbaugh, Alfred Judd, Dominiq Thierry, Benjamin Judd, Martin Wilson, Wm. Dillman, F. F. Thierry, Robert Mann and Thomas Judd. Benjamin Judd was appointed chairman and Aaron Martin secretary of the new organization. It was declared that it hereafter be known as "Cumberland Cemetery Association on Sandy." And have perpetual existence.

Dec. 16 & 17, 1875--At the first meeting of the Board of Directors it was resolved to buy as an addition to the old cemetery, all territory west and southwest to the road of Robert Mann and David Wilson, the former at \$50 per acre and the latter at \$25 per acre; to have a fence built around the whole, and to have the addition surveyed, recorded and plotted.--Thomas Judd, President.

Jan. 21, 1876--Lots sold at auction: No. 1 lost \$40; No. 2s \$35.

Sept. 30, 1878--Robert Mann was appointed to purchase lumber, fix fence and make boxes for use of cemetery.

Oct. 28, 1881--Motion carried that widows holding deeds or widows of deceased husbands who held deeds shall be entitled to vote. Motion carried that because of universal custom of setting one day each year for decorating graves, the board-elect meet at cemetery on 2nd. Saturday in May next to put grounds in order and make arrangements to aid in said decoration.

Oct. 24, 1885--Motion carried to send circulars to lot owners asking their opinion as to pasturing sheep in cemetery to deep down weeds and grass. May 1, 1886--Lot holders' letters read: 4 against and 24 in favor of pasturing; 26 not heard from. Will pasture sheep.

May 8, 1891--Cherry Point Church, Sandy, 2 p.m. Petition received signed by 10 members praying association not to pasture sheep in the cemetery. Members will vote on this at annual election in fall, 1892.

Oct. 17, 1892--Price for digging graves for persons over 12 years of age raised to \$5; under 12 \$3.75.

Oct. 20, 1896--Receipts for year \$127.59; expenditures \$2.75.

Oct. 16, 1916--Treas. reports \$1188.06. Wilbur Mann is to use his judgment about letting vehicles in cemetery when muddy.

Oct. 20, 1920--M. J. French is to get design and prices for signs on posts over each gate.

Dec. 14, 1931--Trustees to settle matter of Wilson heirs removing the old church. Ada Kreider, President.

Dec. 14, 1938--All favored Mr. Carithers having old Presbyterian church if he pay cash for same. Action vested in trustees.

Nov. 17, 1942--Annual meeting at home of Ethel Stateler. County Judge Donald Gregg explained obligations relative to incorporating the association. He will assist. Motion carried to incorporate.

EVANS TOWNSHIP CUMBERLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION:

May 4, 1947--Granted Cemetery Authority License June 14, 1948. First officers and trustees: Edith Gants, Pres; Virgil Mann, V-P; Ethel Caldwell, Sec; L. Ada Kreider, Treas; Ruth Davis, Minnie Kennedy, Edith Judd, Trustees. Chilly, windy day--met at cemetery.

May 2, 1948--Pres. E. Gants said several parties were interested in buying churchyard land. All seemed to favor selling with certain limitations except Ethel Caldwell who felt, since it had been purchased by Alfred Judd and given to cemetery many years ago, we should rent same for \$10 per year. Carried to rent.

May 1, 1949--One year's use of churchyard given to Wilbur Mann for care of same. F. Griffin to experiment with weed killer.

Oct. 13, 1943--Letter of appreciation to be sent Community Club for their efforts in holding Memorial Day services here each year.

Jan. 25, 1947--After 72 years of existence, Cumberland Cemetery Assoc. will transfer all funds, deeds, etc. to new Evans Twp. Cumberland Cemetery Assoc., of Wenona, Illinois.

May 5, 1953--Appreciation voiced by officers and trustees for the splendid work and care of cemetery by Virgil Mann and his family.

Aug. 23, 1954--Tribute read at Miss Edith Gants' burial: "There's an open gate/At the end of the road,/Through which each must go alone./And there is a light we cannot see/Our Father claims His own./Beyond the gate our loved one/Has found happiness and rest./Our comfort is in the thought/A loving God knows best." We shall miss "Miss Edith" our president. She performed her duties faithfully and her every thought was that Cumberland be made more beautiful. We shall cherish her memory and strive to do as she would have done.

June 21, 1955--Special meeting to consider joining Cherry Point and Riley Cemeteries in petition to voters of Evans Twp. to levy a tax for care of these cemeteries.

ARCH GATE--In 1928 movement began to erect arch gate at south entrance of cemetery; brick and stone posts at west gate. Mrs. Wilbur Mann and Cora Dickey worked hard to see this project completed. On May 6, 1956 a motion carried that Arch Gate should be widened as cars are wider today; also to repair pillar at west gate. New fence along north side of cemetery. Money for posts and wire donated by Florence Gants. Labor donated by Art Wilson, Joe Hawk, Elmer Davis, Harold Beckwith, Don Stith, Noah Caldwell and Virgil Mann.

THE PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY CLUB has, through the years, been responsible for memorial services at Cumberland and Cherry Point cemeteries. The meetings of this organization and the interests of the women in it have centered around Wenona and the fields and wooded groves through which Old Sandy flows. They took an active part in Evans Township's Centennial observance in 1930. In May each year, now as in the past, they plan memorial programs and place American flags and flowers on graves of those who served our country and now rest in Cherry Point and Cumberland cemeteries..."lest we forget." This Club organized in 1916 and has been active ever since.

FT. DARNELL
1832
BLACK HAWK WAR
600 ft. S.E. Stood
Log Stockade for Protection of
PIONEERS
Erected by Darnell and Judd
Descendants
1951

This marker faces the east, from whence our people came, and each new day always comes from the east, bringing new hopes, new joys and new sorrows. So it was with the pioneers who 130 years ago came in ox drawn, covered wagons, bringing all their worldly possessions. Their hopes were high for the future welfare of their families, they endured hardships during their long journey, they were determined and they succeeded in this fertile land. Because of all they endured, we descendants have erected this marker that future generations will remember the dangers of all the people who lived in this vicinity during the years 1832-1833.

First mention of a marker came to me (Gertrude French) during my close relation with Charles Darnell during 1933-34 when he was writing his book, "Benjamin Darnell, Ft. Darnell, and Early Settlers of Marshall County." He remarked, "I hope I shall live to see a marker on the site of this fort." In 1958 committees were appointed at the Darnell reunion at Plano and the Judd reunion in Wenona. It was not until 1951 when the committee at the Judd reunion, namely Roland Judd of California, Lura Gants Hawley of Tonica, Roscoe Judd and Garnet Judd Griffin of Wenona, stated, "We are going to have a marker." Contributions came from far and near; the Darnells likewise contributed generously, also friends near the site of the fort. Donations amounted to enough to erect this marker and flag pole and landscape it with evergreens.

The marker is of Wisconsin Mahogany Granite and was purchased from Breen Monument Co. of Lacon. The "die" measures 12"x22" and its height is 31" with a base 16"x26". Sealed in a box at the base is a "History of the Fort," a copy of the June 21, 1951 issue of The Wenona Index, names of donors, Indian head 1903 penny (70 years after the fort was vacated), an Indian arrowhead found on Sandy 1933, also several commemorative stamps.

The location was not easily nor quickly decided upon. The fort actually stood on the farm of Wilbur Mann, now recently deceased. Mr. Mann was never too busy to show the many people who called where the fort stood and many drank from the well now in use. The committee decided it would be more conveniently located on this spot; the lot was purchased from the Cumberland Cemetery and the deed given. Some dozen or more people who lived in the fort are buried here.

FORT DARNELL MARKER DEDICATED

Impressive dedication speech given by Miss Gertrude French of Chicago:

We are assembled here today to dedicate the marker commemorating the building of Ft. Darnell in 1832. Within the confines of this stockade our pioneer ancestors brought their families and livestock for protection when an Indian attack loomed as a possibility during the Black Hawk War. History records that Black Hawk and his warriors did not cross the Illinois River to the north as had been expected, and the only Indian to visit the fort was one weak from hunger.

The erection of this fort, however, indicates the steadfastness of purpose of these sturdy pioneers. They did not forsake their plans when danger and even death seemed inevitable. They had emigrated to a new country, and they accepted the responsibilities. They built Ft. Darnell for protection and went on establishing their homes and families, planning for schools, churches and local government. The selection of the location of this lovely cemetery, while a mission of sorrow, shows their love of nature in the choice of these rolling hills on which to place their loved ones who could not survive the rigors of pioneering.

There is a purpose in having this memorial, with its flag waving high. It is a reminder to us today of our heritage and the debt we owe to those sturdy, God-fearing forefathers who pushed the wilderness farther back in order to establish this community--Evans Township, in which to live.

In dedicating this memorial to our ancestors, let us not forget those of our contemporaries no longer with us, who had envisioned this marker: Leslie Kemp and Edith Gants who had both given it careful thought; Garnet Judd Griffin, Roscoe Judd and Roland Judd who carried on the project to completion; and Ethel Judd Caldwell who has faithfully served as family historian for so many years.

And so, let us dedicate this marker to the community in the name of those who sought freedom and opportunity, and were willing to make sacrifices for their goal, that those who came after might continue to enjoy peace and freedom.

Black Hawk won the respect and admiration of his white enemies when he said, "Rock River was beautiful country. I like my town, my cornfields, and the home of my people. I fought for them." And we can say Evans Township is beautiful country. We like our town, our cornfields, and the home of our people--and some of us have fought for them.

* * * * *

Miss Eleanor Bussell accepted the marker in behalf of the Marshall County Historical Society and stated that a bronze plaque from the Society will be fixed to the marker. The program concluded with benediction by the Reverend H. Dovenspike.

DEDICATION OF THE WILLIAM HUNT TREE Cumberland Cemetery

More than 200 people drove to Cumberland Cemetery in Evans Township on Sunday, September 15, 1963 for the dedication of the William Hunt tree which was arranged by Maxine Tomlinson and other Wenona members of the Marshall County Historical Society. A delightful fall day added color to the rural setting.

The Hunt tree has stood on this same spot for the last 100 years. It was planted to protect the dead body of the Hunt's infant son, William. A hundred years ago dead bodies were dug up and sold by persons to medical scientists for research purposes. To safeguard the body of their child the Hunts planted this Norway Spruce on his grave to camouflage it against the inhumane practices of those times. The tree is of the coniferous family. It was typed by forestry authorities as a Norway Spruce. These trees were probably introduced to this area by the Quakers. It was customary to bring Norway Spruce from the eastern states by covered wagon. Years later a marker was placed on the grave and the spruce grew around it.

This tree was dedicated in remembrance of the courage and faithfulness of early settlers in Evans Township. Printed programs bore a photo of the tree, its history, and names of participants in the dedication:

Marshall County Historical Society--Myna Swanson, President.
Rev. John C. Roberts--Wenona United Presbyterian Church.
Wenona Men's Octet--C. Christen, Wenona H.S., Music Director.
Alic Logan--Peoria, Illinois; composer of Memorial Tree Poem.
Marian Brown--Wenona, Illinois.
Cliff Stateler--Wenona, Illinois.
Wenona Post No. 8--American Legion
Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, Troops No. 27-189-69-74.
Troup Leaders--Anthony Naler, John Evan, Charles McKrosky, John Johnson, Al Gude, Fred Garrels, Margaret Ricca, Mary Besowshek.



MEMORIAL TREE

And years beyond the time of need
 The great tree stands,
 (And if trees perhaps remember)
 Perhaps remembering
 The perilous early time that was;
 The cycle of growth of those
 Whose fellow lay, his cycle ended,
 In the earth at the foot
 Of the guardian tree.

And if trees remember,
 This one remembers springtime--
 Children and flowers, young men and maidens,
 Old men in the sun;
 Always the same
 To the one there in the earth;
 And summers and summers
 Bright and hot, noisy with children
 Playing through the pleasant days,
 All growing older
 (Save the one)
 And autumn burning colors
 Against the coming cold
 Year after fading year:
 And winters following winters
 With windsung lullabies
 Souging the branches
 Of the protecting tree.

Now the children have grown
 (Save the one)
 And the young men are gone
 Since the sapling was set;
 But still the great tree grows
 And towers still;
 And if trees remember,
 Remembers all the cycles of time
 Endured through God's goodness by some,
 Spared the one at the foot
 Of the Memorial tree.

Alice Logan
 September 15, 1963

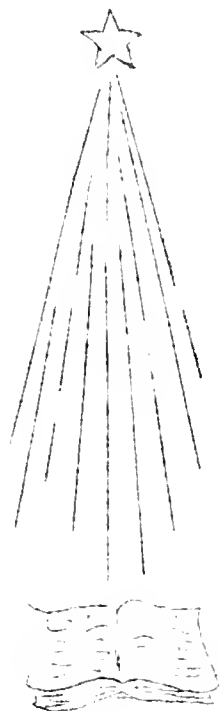
A KINDLY MAN

There is a kind of immortality that no one can deny and that is the effect those who are gone still have on us who live. Like ripples in the stream of life, their influence never completely vanishes and we are finer because of them.

Such a man was the Reverend George Flug who held the pastorate of Wenona's Presbyterian Church from 1920 until April 1933 and returned at retirement in 1937 to spend his remaining years among cherished friends.

It was a real privilege to sit in the study of this gracious, kindly pastor and listen as he recited from memory poems or prose composed by himself or by others, renowned or unknown. Henry Van Dyke's "Zest of Life" was one of his favorites. "Crossing the Bar" was another, often requested.

Who could remain untouched as this man of God stood bare-headed beside the bier of a departed friend at Cumberland or nearby cemeteries, a breeze riffling the pages of his open Bible as he read comforting scriptures, and with deep feeling spoke the immortal words of Lord Tennyson?



Sunset and evening star
 And one clear call for me!
 And may there be no moaning of the bar,
 When I put out to sea,

 But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
 Too full for sound and foam,
 When that which drew from out the boundless deep
 Turns again home.

 Twilight and evening bell,
 And after that the dark!
 And may there be no sadness of farewell,
 When I embark;

 For though from out our bourne of Time
 and Place
 The flood may bear me far,
 I hope to see my Pilot face to face
 When I have crossed the bar.



CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ON SANDY CREEK
1868

LOOK AT THE GALLERIES

Sermon delivered at Cumberland Memorial Service - May 23, 1965
By The Reverend Thor E. Bogren, Jr.

Paraphrasing a Biblical text from Hebrews 12, it would suggest to us this day: "Look at the galleries!" Look at the evidences of those around us whom we remember today. They are filled with eager and expectant spectators watching you run the race of life. They ran the course before you and their race is continued in you. They are not simply pleased in your doing well, or disappointed in your failure. It is a kind of relay race; they win or lose in your victory or defeat. Each Sunday, but especially Memorial Day, is a time to look at the galleries and remember those who have run the race of life before us.

1. First, there are those named by the writer of Hebrews--Abraham, Moses and the rest. But in centuries since, many have joined them--saints and martyrs of the Church.

2. One is a stalwart figure in garments of the 16th. century: A man who braved the perils of his day to lead a reformation of the Church--Martin Luther, one of the founders of Protestantism. At the present time there seem to be no risks, or should we say there is the greatest risk of all--the risk of indifference and neglect?

3. Another is Roger Williams, early leader in American religious liberty. He helped carry the torch of freedom still further. Are we holding too cheaply the religious liberty for which he and others like him struggled? Is liberty less valuable because it is so commonplace? How are we using the freedom secured at such cost? Someone has even suggested that religious liberty is a person's freedom to choose which church you may stay away from!

4. A fourth group is khaki-clad or in sailors' blue or Airforce brown--the dead of two world wars and several unofficial wars! We are frightened and discouraged--peace has become almost a dirty word. But we dare not lose our interest or cease our efforts toward peace.

5. Then there are faces which watch expectantly and with indescribable love and tenderness. They are the host of friends and loved one. Some of them are far away, some very near. But they are there in the galleries. I see parents who watched us grow from infancy, cared for us when we were ill, lay awake nights until we came home, saw us off to school, prayed for us, believed in us.

6. I also see one among you and all these here who is like you, yet so different...This is your letter self, patiently waiting for you to claim him as your own.

7. If this expectant gallery is not enough to inspire you to do your best, there is yet one more. His brow is thorn-crowned and his hands bear the print of nails. He called you to this race and victoriously ran the course ahead of you. He is still keeping his promise, "Lo, I am with you always." And so, on this Memorial Day we remember to look to the galleries of all those who have gone on before us, as we also look to Jesus Christ.

Chapter IX

Churches

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EVANS TOWNSHIP

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Sandy was organized by Rev. Patton Mitchell, in 1835 or '36. The Society when first organized consisted of John S. Hunt and wife, J. Morley and wife, and----Gates and wife. J. S. Hunt was the first Ruling Elder elected by the Society. In the winter of 1836-7 the Society was strengthened by the addition of Samuel Cox and wife, George Beatty, Anna Paget, James Caldwell and wife, Wm. Swarts and wife, and Bowman joined the Society, and Albert Bowman was elected an Elder in the church. Mr. Mitchell was in charge of the Society for three years, and was then succeeded by Archibald Johnson.

The first camp meeting ever held in the Township, and perhaps in the county, was under the administration of Mr. Johnson, in the summer of 1841, and was held on the Adams farm, then owned by Samuel Cox. Robert Taylor succeeded Mr. Johnson, and in the summer of 1842 held another camp meeting on the same ground. These meetings and other special occasions were attended by Cornelius Johnson, a brother to Archibald Johnson, and a man of much more than ordinary ability. At the camp meeting in 1842, Mr. Taylor at the close of a very earnest sermon drove the people all from the encampment under a preemptory order for all to retire to the woods for prayer. While the sinners began to scatter for their homes, the faithful obeyed the order, and in a few minutes in every direction was heard the voice of earnest supplication. Toward the close of the same meeting Mr. Taylor chose for his text: "Rejoice, O young man in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart and in the sight of thine eyes." He began by telling the people that he had been trying to tell them how to get to heaven, but they were not disposed to hear him, and now he proposed to tell them how to go to hell.

The Sandy Cumberland Presbyterian Church was erected in 1868, under the administration of John J. Houston. The latest recorded pastor, Mr. Roger, served that Church in connection with the Society at Clear Creek.

Mrs. Lola Smith relates the following: On Memorial Day my father, Marion French, and I would get up early in the morning, load a barrel in the back of the wagon, fill it with water from the well and take it over to the church yard, tie two tin cups to the barrel and that was the drinking water for the day. At nine we decorated the soldiers' graves at Cherry Point. Boys and girls were lined up in pairs, one given a wreath, the other a bouquet. As the first couple in line decorated a soldier's grave it went to the end of the line until all graves were decorated. At eleven o'clock the same

ceremony was repeated at Cumberland. After the decorating of the graves everyone went to the timber between the cemetery and the church. Horses were unhitched from carriages, tied to the trees and fed. The women spread tablecloths on the ground and put out a bounteous picnic dinner. In the afternoon there was a speaker at the church and special music. In honor of the day red, white and blue bunting and flags adorned the church.

Cumberland Church sat in a lonely location on a southern slope and a fine board fence enclosed the yard. At the southeast corner of the yard was a stile where the ladies, stepping out of their carriages onto the steps, could escape any mud on bad days while the driver drove on to tie up the horses. An elaborate chandelier hung from the ceiling which held eight kerosene lamps that furnished the lighting and two wood burning, low, oval-shaped stoves with long stove pipes extending overhead to a chimney on each side of the church were the heating equipment for the church.

A few items from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church have been preserved; a Bible, two pulpit stands and a chair, found in the yard following the removal of the church. They are in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Mann. Also in the possession of the Manns is a bench from the church, purchased at the Carrither's sale in Toluca.

Virgil Mann recalls seeing Roy Winter walking to church with his "church" shoes tied around his neck and wearing his "mud" shoes. Miss Gertrude French remembers Roy and his sister, Florence, as a little boy and girl singing a duet to the tune of "When the Roll is Called up Yonder, I'll Be There." Miss French and Mrs. Frances Peterson Lundgren also tell us the last social affair at Cumberland was a Box Social and home talent show in which Miss Peterson was cast as one of the characters. Frances was a pupil at Brush College. This was about 1915.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN EVANS

One of the oldest Methodist Societies in the County is at Cherry Point. Early in the fall of 1831 John Dixon, a local preacher of Dry Grove, came to Cherry Point to visit his son. While here he held a twp-day meeting in the cabin of Thomas Brooks, situated on the east bank of the little creek on the west side of the Adams farm.

A Methodist class was organized, consisting of Thomas Brooks and wife, Justus Jones and wife, Abram Jones and wife, Joshua Evans and wife, Thomas Dixon and wife, and probably Barton Jones. The Jones family had just come into the neighborhood. This was the first religious society organized in the Township, and has continued with various degrees of prosperity until the present time.

In the fall of 1831 Wm. Royal was appointed to the Peoria mission which embraced the territory from Peoria northward without any special limitation. The mission actually embraced a part of the Fox River country. Her arranged for services at Cherry Point, but the Black Hawk was seriously embarrassing to him in his work. His family occupied a cabin near where Enoch Dent lived for many years, and considering it unsafe here, he removed further south to a place of safety, but returned at the close of the war and filled out the year.

In the fall of 1832, Jesse Hale, an eccentric old bachelor, was appointed to the Pekin mission. Some of his brethren thought he ought to get married, and arranged for him to visit a lady they had selected, and she willing to make the best impression possible, arrayed herself in goodly raiment and set off with flowers and ribbons, in that day quite un-Methodistic. The preacher viewed carefully the dress of the lady candidate for matrimony and then said, "Sister, are you not afraid the devil will get you?" The sequel was not a wedding.

Asahel Elihu Phelps, Presiding Elder, was one of the most profound and brilliant men of Western Methodism. He was not only an orator, but a controversialist of unusual ability, and is remembered all over Central Illinois by the early Methodists as the great defender of their faith.

The little class organized by John Dixon and taken into the Peoria Mission by W. Royal was soon depleted by the removal of Thomas Brooks, Thomas Dixon and Abram Jones and their wives.

The oldest class book in existence is dated August 29, 1834. John Sinclair was Presiding Elder, Z. Hall, preacher in charge, and John McHenry assistant. Justus Jones was class leader, and the additional members were Sally Jones, Joshua Evans, Elizabeth Evans and Barton Jones. Justus Jones remained leader of the class until his death in October, 1849, when he was succeeded by his son,

Nelson's Automobile with Cherry Point
M.E. Church in Background (about 1907)



Daniel W. Jones, who retained that position until his death in 1853.

In the early part of 1835 the name of Barton Jones disappears, leaving only four members, namely: Justus Jones and wife, and Joshua Evans and wife. In the latter part of that year the names of Vincent Bowman and Martin Kennedy appear on the class book. In 1836 Hannah Radcliff joined the Society, and in 1837 the class was strengthened by the addition of Wm. Evans, Sarah Evans, Daniel W. Jones, Joseph Long, Eliza Long and Robert Brown. In 1838 Mary A. Brown, Almira Evans and Truman B. Hall were added to the class. In 1839 first appear upon the records the names of George Beatty, Effie Bowman, Louisa Jones, Parmelia Bowman, William Bowman, John C. Bowman and Joseph Warner. The additions in 1840 were Rachel Caldwell, Chauncy W. Barnes, Sarah Barnes and Wm. Swarts.

In 1841 the Society was strengthened by the Alexander family, who moved into the neighborhood from Kentucky. The first death in the Society was that of Joseph Warner, who died September 5, 1842, at the advanced age of 104 years. In October of the same year Rachel Caldwell was buried. July 12, 1843, Elizabeth Evens died with the small-pox and Jane, wife of Wm. Evans, on the 26th of the same month, died with the same disease. Between 1845 and 1850 the Society was very much reduced, and even threatened with extinction. The Methodist Protestant Church had organized a Society, and for a while seemed to have a prospect of taking the community. But in the early part of December, 1849, R. N. Morse held a series of meetings in the Evans School House, which resulted favorably for the M. E. Church. He was assisted part of the time by Rev. Johnson of the M. P. Church, but the meeting was in charge of R. N. Morse, and the M. E. Church was most largely benefited. Thirteen joined the church (also a few from the M.P. Church) at the close of the meeting, and out of the thirteen, five became ministers, viz: C. Springer, L. Springer, M. C. Springer, J. G. Evans and Z. I. Jones. A new impetus was given to the Society, and in 1852, under the administration of H. J. Humphrey, the erection of a church edifice was projected. It was completed in the spring of 1854, and dedicated in April, by Silas Bowles of Chicago, Rev. A. M. Early and J. B. Craig being pastors at that time.

The Sandy M. E. Church cost \$1,200, Daniel W. Jones, Joshua Evans and William Evans being the largest contributors. Since the erection of the Church building the Society has been upon a permanent basis, and is now one of the strongest and most flourishing churches in the country.

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WENONA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPRINGS FROM SERVICE HELD IN SMALL GROVE BACK IN 1852

Wenona was little more than a cross roads with a railroad stop when a little group of ten people met June 26, 1852 to make official application for the organization of a church. The group included Newton Ervin and his wife, Ira and Henry Lowry, C. B. Rushmore and his wife, Samuel and wife, and William Lowry and wife.

"After a session of prayer for Divine instruction and guidance," reads the old record, "this small group of ten people invited the Rev. Joserh Fowler, pastor of the Lacon Presbyterian Church, to conduct a service here."

An outdoor service was held in the grove, Rev. Fowler taking as hist text John 20-21. A large crowd attended and people presented their children for baptism and the Lord's supper was observed.

START WEEKLY SERVICES

Regular weekly services did not start until May 7, 1853, when the Sunday School was organized. The meeting place was the newly erected station house of the Illinois Central Railroad. The young boys rode through the country to notify people there would be a service held by a circuit rider who stopped at an Inn owned by Mrs. Almeda Cahoon's grandmother.

The future looked bright for the little village and it grew rapidly. In 1885 the railroad platted the town and donated a lot to the embryo church. On this lot the first church was built and was dedicated late that same year by Rev. J. R. Dunn, assisted by Rev. Carey. Rev. Dunn was Wenona's first resident pastor and served the community well. The church prospered, growing from the humble beginning to a large congregation. It is more than likely that Christian people of other demoninations attended until their own churches were organized, since this was the custom in those days.

The Methodist Society used the church for its services for two years until its own building was ready for occurance in April, 1860.

The congregation out-grew the first church and in 1883 the old church was moved away and the present one built. The first service in the new edifice was held January 5, 1884, with the rator of the church, Rev. Wotring, in charge.

The large manse with three spacious living rooms was built in 1909, and was used for all social activities of the church. During the pastorate of Rev. George Flug the church was remodeled and re-dedicated October 19, 1924.

The Diamond Jubilee was observed with fitting ceremonies in 1927. At the close of the service Mrs. Flug, the pastor's wife, planted a little evergreen tree in honor of the beginners class. The tree still stands today as a living memorial to Mrs. Flug and her service to children of the church.

SOCIETY ORGANIZED

The first society in the church was organized as the Wenona Benevolent Society in 1860. It was reorganized November 19, 1877 as the Ladies Aid Society. The group continued to function for many years, meeting Wednesday afternoons to sew or quilt. Their earnings were given to the church to be used "where most needed".

The Missionary Society was formed at a meeting called by Rev. Wotring Oct. 5, 1883. From the initial group of only three members, the society had increased to membership of 53 when it celebrated its 40th anniversary in 1923.

The Social Union was organized as the Wednesday Society in 1906. The group has always contributed generously to the finances of the church.

The Hope Circle was organized as a Sunday Class in 1918 by Miss Ethel Judd (Mrs. Ethel Caldwell). Mrs. Louisa Clappitt is the only remaining charter member.

The Westminster Society is an outgrowth of the Westminster Guild, a class of girls taught by Mrs. Mercy Scott from 1930 to 1936 and later by Mrs. Flora Taggart. In March it was reorganized for missionary study and social fellowship.

The Westminster Fellowship was organized in 1949 by the young people of the church.

The Fireside Fellowship was organized in January 1950. It meets weekly at Sunday time.

A cradle roll was started in 1898 by Mrs. Almeda Cahoon, who saw an article in a Sunday School paper about one of the earliest ones in the Madison Avenue Church in New York City. She inquired about it and found herself appointed to the task of creating one.

Her carefully kept records have been used in lieu of a birth certificate several times. It soon became known as "Auntie" Cahoon's cradle roll.

The Church pioneered with motion pictures also, and has the old projector and films of the early 1900 period.

CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

June 22, 1952 the Presbyterian Church of Wenona celebrated its centennial. An organ recital with Miss Betty Moody, Peoria, Illinois was guest organist. Rev. Walter Hockenstein conducted the worship service.

Mrs. Glada Jenkins, church organist, presided at the rededication of the Sanctuary and Chancel.

WENONA METHODIST CHURCH HAS INTERESTING HISTORY. STARTED WITH SIX MEMBERS BACK IN 1856

When Ahab Keller came to Wenona in 1856 to make arrangements for regular Methodist preaching services in the village, he found only six members for his first class. The group was assigned to the Tonica circuit and Solomon Wise was appointed the leader.

Services were held in the Presbyterian Church during the years 1856 and 1857 and Rev. J. G. Evans, pastor of the Tonica circuit, was the first to serve the church and held preaching services whenever he could.

In the spring of 1859 under the leadership of B. P. Wheat, the erection of a church was planned. The enterprise was difficult for the society was small and weak financially. During the summer the building was enclosed. In the fall it was plastered and used, unfinished that winter. In the spring it was completed and dedicated in April of 1860 by Rev. C. S. Munsell, D.D., president of Illinois Wesleyan University.

ONE OF STATIONS

The Sandy Methodist Episcopal Church became the center of a new charge under the name of Wenona Circuit in 1865, and the Wenona church was one of the stations. The records are vague but apparently Wenona was connected at various times in the 1860's with Evans, Cherry Point, Phillips Lane, Turners's School House, Climax and Lostant.

The first religious notice published in the Wenona Index was that of Mar. 21, 1865 in Vol. 1, No. 2 (the second issue of the paper) which states that "preaching services will be held in the Methodist Church at 1 o'clock P.M. and Sunday School at 3 o'clock P.M. Prayer Meeting every Sabbath and Thursday evenings. A. Bower, Pastor."

The church property was sold in May, 1887 to the Zion German Lutheran congregation and the lots diagonally across from the church purchased from William and Orie Downey, 100 feet; and from Annis G. Robbins's widow, 60 feet. At that time was a blacksmith shop on the Robbins property which had been operated by Annis Robbins.

The old church was used jointly with the new owners until the new Methodist Church was completed. The last service in the old church for the Methodists was held Feb. 24, 1888, with the pastor, Rev. Edward Wasmuth, in the pulpit.

Great credit was given Rev. Wasmuth for inspiring the effort to build a new church for his sustaining faith that the project could be carried through successfully. The building committee for the church included A. M. Statler, Charles Howe, Benjamin Turner and Benjamin Wilson.

As early as April 28, 1887, much effort was being given to raising money for building the church. The ladies of the church sponsored festivals, ice-cream socials, New England dinners and other projects. One favorite endeavor was the "Elocution," evidently a presentation of outstanding orators and elocutionists.

LAY CORNER STONE

The corner stone of the edifice was laid in August, 1887, and the first service held there was the dedicatory service on Sunday, Feb. 19, 1888. Rev. H. B., president of Illinois Wesleyan, was the speaker. Only \$700 of the total cost of nearly \$8000 was yet to be raised that day and was entirely subscribed before the dedication ceremony.

The Foreign Missionary Society was re-organized in 1893 with 19 charter members. Mrs. Jesse Heflin was the first president.

In March, 1911 the congregation undertook the purchase of a pipe organ. With a grant of \$625 from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation as a starter, sufficient money was soon on hand for the \$2000 instrument. (At that time Andrew Carnegie was encouraging churches to install pipe organs by assisting in their purchase.) August 7, 1911 at a recital given by Prof. William Rolf of Peoria, was the dedication service of the new organ.

NAME IS CHANGED

Following the union of the three great Methodist organizations in 1939 the name of the church was changed to St. Jon's Methodist Church of Wenona.

One of the pastors, P. Henry Lotz, Ph.D., wrote three books in the field of religious education during his stay in Wenona from 1939 to 1942.

The installation of the new pipe organ in 1911 gave considerable impetus to the music of the church. Miss Bernice Bredge and Myra Fosbender were the first organists. Miss Blanche Lindgren has been organist since 1929.

The Wesleyan Service Guild was organized in the home of Mrs. Donald Gregg in July, 1946. It was sponsored by the members of the Epworth Guild for business and professional women and for those who found it more convenient to attend evening meetings. Mrs. Phillip pickard was the first president.

At a meeting in January, 1950, four womens organizations, The Enterprise Society, Epworth Guild and the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies united to the Womans Society for Christian Service, conforming to the Methodist pattern of organization for woman's work. Mrs. Marna Winters is W.S.C.S. president (1968).

EMPHASIS ON YOUTH

The Wenona church has always placed considerable emphasis on youth work and had an active Epworth League in 1896. Its successor, the Methodist Youth Fellowship differs in one respect, it is exclusively for the youth of the church. It was organized in 1939 and has a fine record of contributing to the mission work of the church. Miss Juanita Baker is the M.Y.F. president (1968).

QUILTING LADIES

Some time between 1890 and 1900 the Enterprise Society came into existence. There was an industrious group of women who met every week to quilt and often they had all day meetings at which they quilted, tied comforters, sewed carpet rags, made aprons and sunbonnets. They also gave socials and festivals. In later years their activity was confined to quilting under the leadership of Mrs. Axel Helander. Present members are Electa Helander, Carrie Engle, Anna Lambourn, Minola Freeman and Marguerite Osborn.

OBSERVES CENTENNIAL

On Wednesday, Sept. 19, and Sunday, Sept. 23, 1956 St. John's Methodist Church observed its 100th anniversary with Rev. Cornelius C. Keur pastor. At the 9:45 A. M. service Dr. Eugene N. Wisley, Supr. of Peoria District, delivered the sermon "The Church of My Dream." A solo "Come Unto Him" (Handel) was sung by Mrs. Effie Siljander, Oak Park. The M. Y. F. choir sang "Open Your Eyes." (MacFarlane)

A noon basket dinner was enjoyed, after which the Centennial Fraise Service was given at 2 P.M. The opening prayer was given by Pastor J. Melvin Hedin of Bethany Lutheran Church. A solo "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings," music written, played and sung by Miss Blanche Lindgren, our church organist. Scripture Reading: Psalm 150 by Pastor Victor Lehenbauer, Zion Lutheran Church. Former Pastors and Members were present and spoke of their years spent in Wenona and since leaving. Present Pastor, Rev. R. Edward Linder S.T.B., O.S.L.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

During the years from 1839 to 1842 any member of the Catholic faith in the Sandy area who wished to attend service or receive the Sacraments would have to travel to Peru, Indiana where Rev. M. J. Clarke served as pastor of a small frame church. In 1843 Father Clarke went to LaFayette, Indiana, erected a church and school there and was pastor there until 1857. Worship was a bit easier for Wenona area Catholics by 1859 because this same Father Clarke became pastor of Amboy, Illinois and attended many communities including Sandy Hill, Maytown, Derkin Grove and Wenona area. The first resident pastor in Wenona was Rev. Murphy, appointed by the Bishop of Chicago, November 24, 1867 and the first recorded baptism was on that date. Rev. M. J. Clarke became pastor of Wenona from May, 1868 to August, 1869 and again from March, 1870 to January 9, 1873, the date of his death. He had contracted a cold at Christmas time and complications caused his death. During his career he had been through many hardships and endured much for his faith. Born and educated in Ireland, he was ordained at Vincennes, Indiana where the people were predominantly French. He was buried in Wenona, Illinois.

It is interesting to note right here that Streator was an out-mission of Wenona from May, 1869 to March, 1870. In 1870 Rev. Clarke built a church at Streator and said Mass once a month until 1872.

The Catholic people had no regular service at Wenona until 1865 when steps were taken to build a church. The people of this faith were few, and their means limited, but a personal effort convinced the leaders in the enterprise that the people wanted a church, and were willing even at great personal sacrifice, to furnish the necessary means. Sufficient funds were raised or guaranteed to warrant building, and the church was soon completed, being dedicated for public worship by Father Murphy within that same year.

This is an account of that first church. "It is 40 feet by 50 feet with a fourteen foot ceiling with convenient seating capacity, and an altar, statues, and ornaments of all sorts, all costing about \$5000. The membership is about three hundred".

This small wooden church served the Wenona parish until 1888, when under Rev. J. J. Smith's administration, the present brick structure was built. Rev. D. O'Dwyer came to Wenona in 1906, and, resigning in 1928, was succeeded by Rev. D. K. Harrington, then by Rev. B. J. Sheedy who remained until 1937. Rev. F. S. Dunne spent three years as pastor and was succeeded by Rev. William M. Graham who served as St. Mary's pastor until his death in 1962. Rev. Reddy was assigned to Wenona until 1964 when Rev. V. Jasiek, our present pastor, came to administer the duties of the school and church.

During Father Smith's administration the old church was moved to the rear of the lot, and the church of today was completed and dedicated in 1888. He saw the need of a parochial school, and the old frame building was converted into class rooms. Sisters from the

Benedictine Order at Nauvoo, Illinois, came to St. Mary's in 1899, and opened a parochial school. They have served the parish for sixty-nine years. The present school and convent was completed and dedicated in 1903. The present day teaching staff are Sisters Marilyn, superior, Roberta and Judith Ann, and Mrs. Lawrence Volz.

HISTORY OF ZION

Living in and near Wenona in the year 1883 were a number of Lutheran families of German descent who were like sheep without a shepherd. To fill the void that existed in their lives they petitioned Pastor August Sippel, of LaRose, Illinois, to bring them the "pure Word and unadulterated Sacraments." Though he was already serving three congregations, Pastor Sippel accepted the invitation gladly. The exact date of the first service, held in the summer of 1883, is not known. The following families were in attendance: John Schwanke, Freidrich Krueger, Henry Erdman, Christian Krueger and H. Stangert. Henry Erdman's home was the Place of worship. It stood in a grove on the south side of what is now the first gravel road south of town, about one-half mile west of Route 51, a little distance west of the new city pumping station.

The second service was held several weeks later in the city school building. Since then that building has become Bethany Lutheran Church. Beginning with the third service, worship was conducted in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which stood where the Neal Gregg residence is now located. This building is still standing, but in a different location. It is the present American Legion Hall.

About this time Dietrich Ehlen, a young ministerial candidate came to LaRose to assist Pastor Sippel. The work was divided--Pastor Sippel continuing to serve LaRose and Varna with Wenona and Washburn being Pastor Ehlen's charges. Services were held on alternate Sundays. In 1885, the young congregation joined the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states. For many years the Mission Board granted Zion an annual subsidy. Pastor Ehlen moved from LaRose to Wenona in 1887. In the same year, on May 18, the congregation agreed to purchase the Methodist Episcopal Church for \$1,000.00. Now the group had its own house of worship, but it had a challenge also. For those times, it was an enormous sum to raise, and the congregation numbered only about fifty communicants. One man was a farmer; all the others were laborers. According to the records, however, the money was raised in the specified time. The newly acquired church was also used for school purposes and for confirmation instruction. Services were held every other Sunday, since P. Ehlen still served the congregation at Washburn. The building that was purchased in 1887 is our house of worship yet today, though it has been remodeled several times. From the beginning the church had two front doors--ladies entering at the south entrance and men by the north. In March, 1890, Pastor Ehlen accepted a call to Scotland, South Dakota.

The vacancy existed until July 13 of the same year, when Pastor George Hennfing, of Leland Michigan, was installed as pastor of the Wenona and Washburn congregations. He remained twenty-four years.

When the number of children attending the day school increased, the congregation resolved to erect a separate school building at the rear of the lot. Dedication took place October 30, 1898. God blessed the school. At times, as many as fifty children received instruction in the Word of God in addition to the usual secular subjects.

Zion Lutheran Cemetery dates back to 1902 when the congregation bought a plot of ground east of town and dedicated it for burial purposes. The trustees of the church administer the affairs of the cemetery.

A major church remodeling project was undertaken in 1906. A steeple and bell were added, and a center entrance was provided. The rededication service was held September 30, 1906. All of the debts incurred in the remodeling were paid within a very short time.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Church's founding was appropriately celebrated July 19, 1908.

In January, 1914, failing sight prompted Pastor Hempfing to announce that he would be forced to resign. The congregation, reluctant to lose its faithful servant of the Lord, asked him to continue another year, if possible. However, in August of the same year he tendered his resignation, continuing to reside in his home at Venona. At this time St. John's Lutheran Church of Ashburn became self-supporting and separated from Venona. Once again the Mission Board came to the congregation's assistance and offered a liberal subsidy for the support of a pastor.

Four calls were issued, but all of them were declined. Application was then made for a ministerial candidate. Graduate O. L. Geiseman was assigned to Venona. His ordination took place in August, 1915. During his pastorate here, in public worship English was first used. This was the period of World War I with eighteen men of the congregation serving their country. Pastor Geiseman continued to teach the parochial school.

In 1916 a furnace was installed replacing the two stoves in the church. This was a much needed improvement. The Ladies Aid was organized on April 17, 1918 with eight members attending the first meeting. The English language was first used in the celebration of Holy Communion June 18, 1919. When Pastor Geiseman, later in August, 1919, accepted a call to St. John's Lutheran Church, Pekin, Illinois, the Reverend J. H. Schoening of Luca, Illinois became his successor. He served the congregation for seven years. Moderate growth continued. In December 1920 the congregation numbered 205 souls, 115 being communicant members. The statistical report for the year of 1924 reveals that the school had been discontinued, although the reason is not stated. The school building was used for social gatherings, society meetings and Sunday School. Pastor Schoening's ministry at Zion was terminated in June, 1926, when he accepted a call to Clayton, Illinois.

Pastor L. Klusman, of LaRose, became vacancy pastor, and subsequently, the called pastor, although he continued to live in LaRose and to serve the congregation there. He was assisted by seminary students, and when neither pastor nor student could be present a reading service was conducted by one of the members. Desiring a resident pastor, the congregation, called candidate Herbert Himmeler in the summer of 1929. His ordination took place September 1 of that year. The following summer the congregation, together with the congregations of Varna, LaRose and Ashburn, celebrated the

English language membership of the church. The congregation's organization was revised and simplified. In the summer of 1931 the interior of the church was redecorated. In January 30, 1932, Pastor Simler and Mrs. Ella Simler were united in holy matrimony.

The Silver Jubilee was observed the second Sunday in July 1933. In the morning service Pastor J. W. Thompson, then of Freeport, Illinois, preached the sermon. A social supper was enjoyed in the Legion Hall. Dr. C. C. Johnson of Freeport, Illinois conducted the afternoon service.

In 1934, under Pastor Simler's supervision, a men's club was organized.

The next year was marked with a new year in October, 1935. The total membership totalled, was 197.11.

The English language had gradually come more and more into use. Ten years ago it started the German language was used only once a month. In January 1936 the voters' assembly resolved to discontinue German services completely.

The front steps of the church were rebuilt in 1937. During the summer of 1938 the interior of the church was remodeled and redecorated. was completely revised and new light fixtures were installed. The pulpit was removed from above the altar. Ten art glass memorial windows were installed. The Luther Memorial, a reproduction of Hoffman's Christ in Gethsemane, painted by artist John Tromann, Chicago, was added to the chancel. And a new hymn board replaced the old one. Pastor Simler, having accepted a call to Grace Lutheran Church, Wheaton, Illinois, preached his farewell sermon on June 13, 1938.

Post-war shortages made it necessary to proceed slowly. On April 12, 1948, at a special Sunday afternoon meeting, the congregation voted to build an addition to the present building, excavation of a full basement with accommodations for a large Sunday School auditorium and social room, a modern kitchen and rest rooms and a new oil-burner heating plant. It also involved the addition of a combination office-classroom, an elders' room and new ecclesiastical light fixtures. Many hours of volunteer labor by members were contributed to this project. Eight new stained-glass windows were installed in the new units to match the ones in the chancel—two of them memorials and also the new sign with the cross over the main entrance.

On February 10, 1949, the school building was sold to Ralph Helander, was moved from the property and made into a beautiful residence.

Dedication of the newly-completed facilities for Christian education and fellowship at Zion Lutheran Church took place on Sunday, June 20, 1949, with special services at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and an "open house" from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the people of the community unable to attend at the worship hours. Guest speakers were the Reverend W. F. Lichtsinn, Hammond, Indiana, father of Reverend W. E. Lichtsinn, and vice-president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and Reverend Walter E. Rosenstein, Bloomington, Illinois.

The congregation's sixty-fifth anniversary was observed on July 11, 1948, with two special services. The guest pastors were Reverend August E. Stenzel, pastor of Bethsemane Church, St. Louis, Missouri, and a former pastor, Dr. C. A. Geiseman of Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest, Illinois; 590 worshippers attended these two services. An amplifying system brought the message to the crowd seated on the chancel lawn. An informal gathering followed the evening service at which time Reverend Walter E. Lichtsinn, pastor of our church, read a history of our congregation and also quoted from numerous congratulatory messages.

The Reverend Walter E. Lichtsinn accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Menasha, Wisconsin, and closed his pastorate here on July 15, 1951. The Reverend Carl Brueggemann, El Paso, Illinois, served as vacancy pastor until the Reverend Theodore C. Krause accepted the call to Zion on September 23, 1951, coming from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Danville, Illinois, where he was ordained on August 7, 1949. He remained with us until February, 1956, when he became a chaplain in the United States Air Force. During his pastorate here on August 10, 1951, Zion congregation bought their first parsonage from Ariel and Emma Theisinger located three blocks south of the church. Zion congregation was without a pastor from February, 1956, to July 1956, but was ably served by Reverend John Daniel of Streator, Illinois, until Pastor Victor Lehnenberger accepted the call which was extended to him. Reverend Thomas Kildert accepted the pastorate June 5, 1960 and served until August 1, 1963. During his last year of service here the congregation built a new parsonage. The vacancy pastor was Reverend William Imboden until August 1, 1963, when he accepted the call February 20, 1966.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The history of Bethany Lutheran Church, similar to that of many other churches founded during the latter years of the 19th century, is an intensely interesting one.

A group of Swedish pioneers, seeking better opportunities in a new land, immigrated to America in the '60's and '70's. They found the rich prairie farm lands of Marshall County, Illinois, to their liking and began to establish homes near Tama, where a church was built. Several families moved farther east and located in the vicinity of Venona.

Since the distance to the Tama church was quite far, traveling slow and roads in poor condition, these God-fearing Christians found it difficult to attend services regularly. They felt a need for a place so visible in Venona, so a group of them met on February 20, 1892, to discuss the matter. J. D. Ekstrom was the leader and F. C. Brantz, the secretary.

A committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of obtaining a building which was to be sold at public auction on March 2nd. This building, originally a church, also been used as a school. The committee was authorized to purchase it provided the price did not exceed \$700. It was purchased for \$525. Necessary improvements were made and a new roof was applied. There, on August 27, 1892, Bethany Lutheran Congregation of Venona was officially organized and became a part of the Augustana Lutheran Church of America.

In January, 1893, the first pastor, Rev. George A. Johnson, was called. He began his duties in June following his ordination. The many details of organization, beginning of records, etc., were a part of his work which he did efficiently. A Sunday School was organized from the beginning and has always been a strong influence within the church.

Bethany's parsonage, located two blocks west of the church, was built in 1891. It has been remodeled and improved several times, and at the present time it is a modern, attractive, well-kept home for the pastor's family.

In 1896, the building was raised, a basement dug, a furnace installed, and a pipe organ purchased. Electric lights were used as early as 1897.

As Bethany increased in numbers, the church became too small. In January 1902 there were 117 members. The pastor's salary was \$650 and two collections. Each member was to contribute \$1.25 per man and \$1.25 per lady. An addition of 16 feet was built to the east, a tower and spire erected, and a balcony made for the choir. Stained glass windows were put in, a beautiful altar painting of "Christ in Gethsemane" purchased and a set of three bells hung in the tower.

At an early date, Bethany's members were made conscious of the need for a cemetery. In 1901 a plot of ground adjoining the Wendona Cemetery was purchased from Charles Howe, and a board of trustees elected to care for the same. In later years a Cemetery Association was formed and perpetual care bonds are now issued to lot owners.

Two Missionary Societies were organized, the W.M.S. in 1912, and the Junior M.S. in 1917. The Ladies purchased a new pipe organ, which was dedicated in May 1915. The Luther League bought new light fixtures and the Ladies' Aid decorated the interior of the church.

A major problem in 1929 was the transition from the Swedish to the English language in church worship. At the time Rev. Ruliberg left, the Swedish service a month was held but that was discontinued the following year.

In 1936 an addition was built to the west end of the church. This construction formed a deep chancel, a sacrist and back stairway and a tracker for the organ.

In 1955 Bethany became very community-minded, participating wholeheartedly in Wendona's Centennial Celebration. The pageant, parade and various programs were shared by many of its members. The beautiful float entered by our Luther League was one of the prize winners.

The past decade has seen many changes in the structural development of the Lutheran Church, not only locally but throughout the Church at large. Years of planning resulted in the merger of several Lutheran Church bodies, including Augustana, and what is known now as the Lutheran Church in America. This merger was completed in 1962 and was adopted by the local congregation.

This merger called for a uniform order of worship and a new service book and hymnal. Another change was the combining of all women's groups of the church into one organization called the Lutheran Church Women.

Our present pastor, Rev. Paul Randolph, came to Bethany in September 1958. With his years of experience and many capabilities Pastor Randolph has been a true spiritual leader.

In October 1967 Bethany celebrated their 75th Anniversary. At present there is a membership of 311. We hope that as through the years the structure of the church building has changed, so the spiritual life of its members has grown.

MAN OF GOD

"Man of God" was the title bestowed upon a traveling minister or missionary who passed through Evans Township, or stayed to preach, in which case both horse and rider were bedded and fed by homesteaders. Itinerant evangelists of the 1800s rode or strode through the worst weather and over rough terrain. They had to be strong men of faith with "a back for any bed, a stomach for any food, a face for any weather." The word was spread that a revival would take place--a series of meetings for awakening religious fervor or rejuvenating wanting faith. Unbelievers found the preaching and singing entertaining, so they joined the crowd and some, to their own surprise, came out converted.

Official records of the Methodist Central Illinois Conference tell of a revival on Sandy Creek in 1849 and state that such revivals, held at "camp meetings and school houses, and even in private homes" had a great impact on the after history of the church. "This will be especially noted in the meeting held on 'Sandy'...No special plan had been formulated, no unusual expectation had been aroused, and certainly no thought had been entertained for the far reaching results of the meeting. It was to continue a few days, if interest justified and almost immediately the meeting ran beyond human control, and in a brief interval of time, in the midst of the most unpretentious plans and conditions it brought its mighty transformation of a community."

Just before his death at the age of 92, the last survivor of this revival, Creighton Springer, wrote details of the meeting held "at the school house at the head of Sandy." At least four of the young men who attended became ministers of the gospel. Two of them returned to be pastors in Wenona's Methodist Church: J. G. Evans in 1879-1880 and Creighton Springer in 1880-1881. The Reverend Mr. Springer was a brother of R. Edwin Howe's maternal grandmother, Adelia Springer Kemp.

According to C. Springer's letter, the Rev. R. N. Morse began the revival on a Sabbath afternoon and announced that it would continue if the interest would justify it. On Friday P.M., Mr. Springer wrote, "I reached the place of meeting when the sermon was about half thru. At the close of the address, the preacher invited seekers; I went at once to the altar; Morse and one or two others came to encourage me...then Saturday evening...at the close of the discourse...I was standing by J. G. Evans. While singing I...invited him to go forward with me. He...told me to speak to my brother, Lewis. I said: Will you go if he consents to go? I stepped to my brother and told him what J. G. had said. He...started, and J. G. Evans and my younger brother followed...Sunday the altar was filled. In a few more meetings all the young people were in the church..." Lewis Springer, J. G. Evans, Zenas R. Jones and Creighton Springer, who were there, all became preachers. Milton Springer taught school a while but his health failed and he died. "The private members, who united with the church at Sandy," wrote Mr. Springer; "became good members and they put in motion influences that will never die."



Man of God

Rev. John Dixon — 1831

Peg Farp

Chapter X

SCHOOLS

THE COUNTRY SCHOOL

Leora Wilb r Houston

Outmoded? I suppose I do SEEM so
 Dressed in the style of many years ago--
 Six windows, three on either side, steep roof,
 Two rows of seats, the teacher's desk, aloof,
 The recitation bench between; the bell,
 A central stove that warms no one too well;
 The painted blackboard--not so very black--
 Yes, I AM old, judge by the almanac.
 Yet young at heart from walking side by side
 With eager, learning Youth; I am denied
 The luxury of aging year by year--
 Like Grandma, with a second brood to rear.

Must I surrender all the smells I know--
 Chalk-dust and books and brand-new calico
 And sweeping-compound--all the sounds as well,
 Of restless youngsters learning how to spell
 And read and write? I am not out-of-date
 While there are children marching out my gate
 Full-armed with self-control and truer thought
 Or challenged by some vision they have caught!

THE COUNTRY SCHOOL

Modern trends in education have brought about a new era in school organization. The immense buildings, the glass panelled walls, the huge gymnasium with its store of materials for games, the specialists, psychologists and the officials are a part of the education system now.

How different are the duties of the modern school teacher today from the one of the turn of the century! The pupil of today has in his own grade many more children than were in the entire school in some country areas.

The country school teacher in the early 1900's was not only instructor, but played the role of janitor, doctor, dentist, and supervisor on the playground. Her duties did not end at 4:00 P.M. After the pupils had left the building, she became the cleaning woman. She swept, dusted, and occasionally scrubbed the floor. Coal and kindling had to be brought in from the shed that sometimes was quite a distance from the school building. Often thoughtful pupils were happy to do this particular chore, especially if the coal bucket and kindling box were empty during the school session.

When a pupil met with an accident, it was the teacher's duty to act as doctor. There was no sterile gauze or band-aids in those days. She used the remedy of soap and cold water, and wrapped the wound as best she could with torn sheeting or worn out pillow cases she had brought from her own home in preparation for an emergency. Many a tooth was extracted by her. Sometimes she had to use an incentive to be permitted to pull the dangling tooth. On one occasion she promised her "patient" she could do anything she wished that afternoon. Without hesitation the little lass said, "No phonics today."

In the early days there was a school erected about every two miles. Most of them were one-room buildings. Often enrollment would necessitate the erection of a two-room building. The enrollment would vary from eighty to ninety pupils in the fall and spring to one hundred in the winter months when the older boys attended. In those days the teacher was of the opinion that the more pupils enrolled the greater prestige. In some schools five year olds were permitted to attend and were welcomed with open arms. Therefore the teacher added another responsibility to her numerous jobs--the role of baby sitter.

There were double desks fastened to the floor. Each pupil had a seat mate. Sometimes the seat mate would be a very dear friend with whom many a whispered conversation took place when the teacher's back was turned, (writing a lesson on the board for another class.) A high-light of the day might have been a skirmish between two seat mates who didn't agree; or a mischievous boy's stuffing a golden curl in the inkwell, and fastening the top tight. When the girl turned her head and screamed, that sound brought the teacher's attention in a hurry and the culprit's mind back to his book.

The double seat had another advantage. If Susie had a difficult time with her numbers she could do a little peeking and easily copy from Alice who never missed a problem.

In the center of the room was a pot-bellied stove. How fortunate were the pupils who were allotted the seats nearest the stove and were hidden from the teacher's view. But this location also had its drawbacks. On cold wintry days when the exterior of the stove was red hot due to excessive firing of coal, the pupils nearest the stove suffered from the intense heat on their faces. Those seated at the far end of the four corners complained of being cold. The floor was often cold and pupils resorted to wearing heavy overshoes. It was not an uncommon occurrence at noon for a pupil to find part of his lunch frozen.

On one occasion a small boy seated next to the stove, spoke out, "This darned stove is too hot." Then the teacher asked, "What kind of a stove is it?" The boy replied, "A darn stove," which brought much laughter from the pupils.

The windows were very seldom opened during the winter season. It was the supposition that plenty of fresh air seeped in through the cracks and loopholes around the window sills. Occasionally the stove would belch volumes of smoke, requiring the windows to be opened. If the smoke could not be controlled, school was dismissed for the day. Pupils rushed happily home, delighted with the unexpected holiday.

There were not many things available in those days to enliven the appearance of the interior of the school room. Materials were not so plentiful as they are today, but something was generally worked out by the thoughtful teacher. Usually there was a motto on the wall in the front of the room above the blackboard. One appropriate motto read, "Order is Heaven's First Law." The letters were cut from cardboard--perhaps the backs of tables. Each letter was covered with colored paper.

There was a bench near the door. This bench held the drinking bucket, wash pan, bar of soap, and one towel furnished by the teacher. The lunch buckets were under the bench. Some pupils were fortunate to possess a small square lunch box purchased from the store but the majority resorted to the molasses pail. Often pupils, eager for that noon-day play, would put the lid on in such a hurry, and at recess would find an unwelcomed quest had invaded the lunch pail. The little mouse felt it was time for his lunch too.

As school was dismissed at noon the pupils passed the line for the washing of hands before lunch. Lunch time was always a happy time. Each one had his special pal to sit beside as he ate. During the pleasant days of spring and fall, lunch was eaten under the trees in the school yard was fortunate enough to have shade. If not they resorted to the porch. Generally there was an exchange of some morsel. Perhaps May traded her pie for Jane's cake, or an apple for a pear. The lunches varied from cold pancakes and cold biscuits to fancy delicacies. Some lunch baskets were filled to overflowing and these fortunate pupils often shared their extras with those less fortunate pupils, especially at the last recess, as no pupil wanted to take home any food. Mother might think he was ill.

There was generally a well with an iron pump on the premises which supplied pupils with good drinking water, and cleanliness. Sometimes a school was not fortunate enough to have this convenience. Then two pupils were appointed to go to the nearest farm house with the water bucket. There was that faithful dipper that served everyone. When the noon bell rang summoning the pupils from their strenuous play, two pupils were appointed to pass the bucket and dipper serving each one from aisle to aisle. To be appointed this task was an honor.

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When weather permitted, games were played outdoors at recess and during the noon hour. Baseball was a favorite game for the boys and sometimes girls joined in the sport. Other games were Hide and Seek, Wood Tag, Tally Around the House, and Pump, Pump Pull Away. In this game if the players were reluctant to leave their bases, "It" would yell, "Pump, pump pull away, if you don't come, I'll pull you away."

Skating was also a favorite sport. Mrs. Lou Luning who attended Hamilton School west of Wenona, reports enjoyable noon hours skating on Old Sandy. One day, time slipped by rapidly and the distance from the school became greater as the minutes flew. Not being close enough to hear the bell, they were late getting back and the tardy pupils had to make up time by staying after school. Hard to explain to mother!

Indoor games during inclement weather were, Button, Button, Who Has The Button; Clap in and Clap Out; Winkum; Captain Jinks; and if one was fortunate enough to possess a mouth harp, Skip to My Lou was played.

Singing songs during morning exercises was always a pleasure. Sometimes the organist was an older pupil. If not, that task was performed by the teacher. Feuds on the playground relative to nationalities or variation in state culture would bring some revenge during the morning and afternoon singing. Songs were selected by pupils and lucky was the one who announced his number first. One occasion blue-eyed Mary called for "My Old Kentucky Home," and looked across the aisle with a tantalizing smile at Johnny who was born in Kentucky. When the song was ended Johnny announced "The Wearing of the Green" and pretty little Mary who was of Irish descent, said with a scornful look, "We don't know that song." Teacher, who was caught between the two fires replied, "There is not time like the present for us to learn it." Johnny with a satisfied look on his face, glanced across the aisle at Mary. "Those who laugh last, laugh best."

Pupils looked forward to Friday, not only anticipating the weekend holiday, but also the time after last recess which was devoted to either art, spelldowns or a ciphering match. Each of the three was an education in itself. Often one school would challenge another one for a Spelling Bee or a Ciphering Match. These were held in the evening and the parents attended.

Many social activities were centered around the Country Schoolhouse. There was the Christmas program which brought much joy not only to Mary and Johnny dressed in their new outfits and shiny shoes, but to Mamma, Papa, Grandma, Grandpa, uncles and aunts who attended to hear their precious little darlings recite a piece, sing a song or take part in a dialogue. The Christmas tree with its lighted candles, strings of popcorn,

and colored chains of paper was the pride and joy of the school. Santa Claus always made his appearance at the close of the program and passed out treats to everyone.

THE BOX SOCIAL

In the days of the country school, education came the hard way and funds for books, maps, supplies, pictures, etc. were not always available as they are in modern day schools. As a result, the teacher and pupils endeavored to have a fund raising affair once a year. This they did with "a box social".

The month of February was often chosen, partly because it was a slack time for parents who co-operated in making the event a success and partly because program materials of a patriotic nature were available and decorations in keeping with the same could be used. However, weather-wise a worse time of year could not be found. What with the deep mud or frozen ruts or even snow and rain, the roads were often all but impassable. But the good old horses plodded faithfully through and as a reward were tied to a post or tree while the merriment went on inside the school. Sometimes a car would venture out on the roads but would get stuck and had to be abandoned. One such incident happened. The Metzgers attempted to reach Trimont school, but its occupants had to get out and walk the last half mile.

For about two weeks before the coming event there was great excitement at school. Studies were rushed through rather hurriedly in order to have extra time practicing for a program. A makeshift stage was made at the front of the school room. A wire stretched from wall to wall, and large calico curtains with brass rings sewed at the top through which the wire was strung, set the stage apart from the audience until the performance began. Such giggling and squirming that went on behind that curtain! The night of the big event the kerosene lamps were lighted and the room made ready by the teacher who came extra early.

Word got around throughout the community that there was to be a "box social" and all neighbors and friends were invited. The ladies were expected to bring prettily decorated boxes filled with food and dainties. These boxes were numbered as they were brought in but their identification was not disclosed. After the program the auctioneer took over and sold the boxes to the highest bidders. In the local area Walter Kemp, Ben Stenzel and Orville Crone (most in demand) often served as auctioneers. Sale of boxes usually ranged from one to five dollars! A big price in those days. Each gent, of course, attempted to discover which box belonged to his lady so that he might bid the highest and earn the privilege of enjoying the box lunch with her. Sometimes signals got crossed and there was confusion and merriment as a result when it was discovered that the wrong guy bought the wrong box.

In addition to the boxes sold there were usually prizes given to those who held lucky numbers from the selling of chances.

What about all the kids and the older folks? Parents packed up special lunches for their families to enjoy. Coffee and lemonade were brought from home and so no one was forgotten and a grand time was had by all.

Fortunate was the teacher who lived in the school district. If not, her transportation was by horse and buggy over bumpy roads, muddy in the rainy season and covered with snow in winter. There was a close relationship between parents and teacher. Often on a cold snowy afternoon with the teacher on her homeward ride, a mother would be waiting at the gate to invite the teacher to spend the night in her home. Before the school year ended, she had accepted hospitality from each family in the school area. The country schools seemed to have been much the same over the state and Old Sandy followed that pattern.

Many of the children in this community who could afford the tuition were sent to seminaries in the nearby areas when they were ready for upper grades. Mrs. Eva Parks' mother wrote a letter to her sister in the fall of 1875 which gives an insight into seminary life and education. These are statements in her letter—"We have some sixteen members on the faculty and thirty-five boarding students, but a great many students come in every day from the outside. There are twenty-five in the beginning arithmetic class where I am. I take four subjects besides writing. They charge five dollars to study writing, and five dollars to use the instrument if you take music. It is evening now and I have just come up from chapel which is held in the laboratory where we read the Bible and pray and sing twice a day.

"I had the loan of a sewing machine and I went to Streator and got material for two dresses. Then I made them, and four sheets and four pillow cases for my room. They charge five cents for each piece of washing and five dollars for renting a carpet, so my room may go uncarpeted. The Professor's wife teaches my history, so I have three teachers, all feminine. There is an 'Awful site of style' required here, but I do not see any mouths puckered or elbows bending back as though they were fastened to the sides. This may be the only letter I will have time to write today. Yours affectionately, Emma A. Graham."

The 1930s brought some modern conveniences to the one-room school. The pot-bellied stove was replaced by a furnace with a metal jacket, installed in a corner. Pupils were more comfortable during the winter months. Electric lights replaced kerosene lamps and indoor toilet facilities were available.

Several schools were privileged to have a band teacher who came once or twice a week. The band members of Hamilton School traveled to other areas and gave of their talents in other school programs.

As years went by the attendance grew smaller in the little country school, some having only six or eight pupils enrolled. Since this condition prevailed over the state, laws were passed encouraging small districts to unite into larger units called consolidated schools. The theory was that each pupil would have better facilities for education and more opportunities in athletics and the arts. The present unit

system comprises more territory than the consolidated school did and future trends seem to point toward larger secondary units.

School buildings are more prententious now; teachers must have advanced degrees to teach the new sciences and math. The large classes prevent close relationship between teacher and pupil; but conselors are provided to give personal attention to student problems. Progress is necessary in our rapid developement.

In this world of technological progress, may the student's mental, physical and spiritual growth be the most important consideration in our education.

A TRIBUTE FROM A COUNTRY SCHOOL PUPIL

Country schools were the hub of the community, havens of learning and wellsprings of virtue. The three R's were learned, it's true, but also the lessons of life which made many of the graduates leaders in American citizenship for a century and a half.

Those who attended a country school may have forgotten the sums they did or the history they once learned but they will never forget the pot-bellied stove, the wet jackets, the snow-sodden mittens, muddy overshoes, lunch boxes, water pail, long-handled dipper, baseball games, picnics, Christmas program parties and the dear close companionship. They are an unforgettable mixture that forever remains in memory.

Most of the schools in Evans Township were named after early settlers in the area: Evans Center, Hamilton, Morgan, Judd, Beckwith, Alfred Judd (also called Brush College), Climax and Trimont (named after a ship which carried a group of Irish immigrants across the ocean in early pioneer days.

A partial list of township residents who taught in its schools during past years: L. D. Brown, Luella DeLong Moffett, Ella Keenan, Bessie McAllister, Lucy Wright, Wahneta Kuehn, Helen Crone, Helen Kemp, Evadell Fosbender, Margaret Martin, Mildred McAllister, Eva Parks, Harold Nelson, Dorothy F. Johnson, Dorothy E. Johnson, Evadell Metzger, Frances Kane, Florence Lindgren, Evelyn Wright, Ruth Nattier and Iva Kemp.

THE OLD SEMINARY, AND PHOENIX SCHOOL

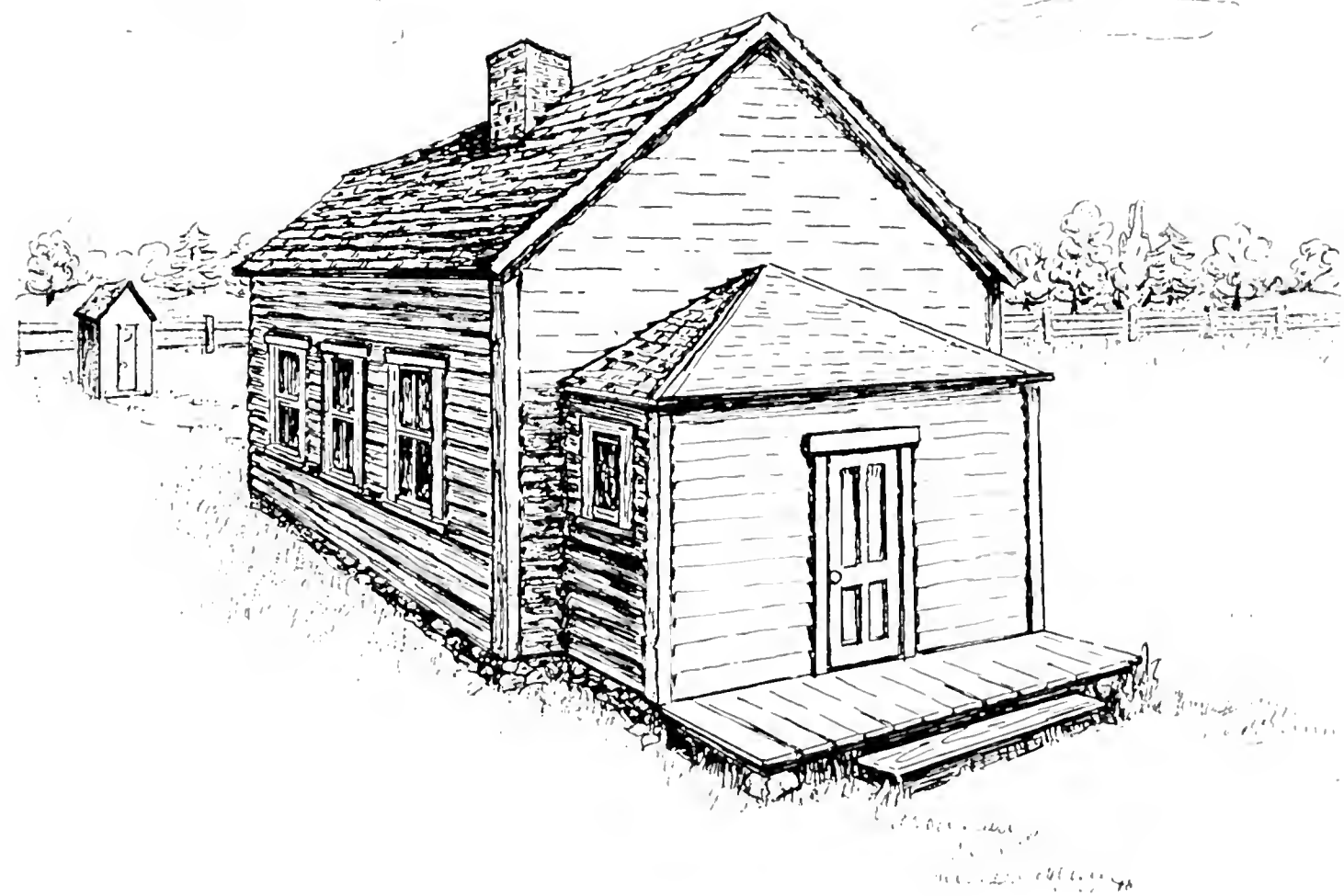
Homer L. Webber, whose father, Milton Webber, along with Melissa McGill and Jonathan Street, were members of the school board with the one-room Phoenix School was built, wrote this information about its predecessor, the "Old Seminary."

"As to the Old Seminary..the building, a huge two-story wood structure, was built when Wenona was really new and had great prospects. It was not a grade school, but a seminary...I believe the grounds were about five acres and when I first came to Wenona in 1884, it had a fence made of heavy posts and four by four timbers. At the southwest and

northwest corners were turnstiles. Some of the houses were built for the teachers and the old John O. Dent home was built for the seminary's president. My impression is that in the first few years many attended the school and it had quite a reputation.

"In 1884 when my brother, Bernard, started his schooling there, it had become a grade school and I think occupied just one room on the east side of the building."

The seminary burned down around 1896. A few years later, the brick, one-room school known as Phoenix was built. The name was given to the school by Milton Webber and it means, "Risen from the ashes." Later another room and an upstairs assembly were added. Then it became necessary to hire two teachers instead of one.



"Brush College" Country School

Peg Earp

BRUSH COLLEGE

"Brush College," it was called--or "French's School" or "Lower Judd." A rose by any other name is just as sweet, but mention "Old Brush" to its erstwhile students, now grown to man- or womanhood, and a nostalgic gleam comes into their eyes as they reminisce.

There was no highway leading to the threshold of this one-room rural school in Evans Township. Pupils made their own paths as they trudged cross-country from farm homes in every direction. In winter when snow was deep in the hollows and icy winds whipped over the hills, boys and girls stepped lively in their high-top boots trekking to classes. In spring when sweet Williams, violets and bluebells perfumed the air, birds sang in the trees and fish flipped invitingly in the brook, it was easy to linger along the way or even sit a while on the big fallen tree that served as a footbridge over the stream.

Brush College stood near Sandy Creek, surrounded by bushes, a few brambles and the many beautiful trees that grew in French's timber. Gradually some of the brush and trees were cleared away and a fence was built around the school, cobshed, well pump and the two small necessary outbuildings a few yards to the rear.

Central heating came from a stove in the middle of the room until it was replaced by a new one that stood in a corner with a metal jacket around it. A long blackboard covered the back wall. A porch or hall was built on the front end of the school to make room for coats, caps and overshoes. Shelves were added where lunches (mostly in half-gallon Karo syrup pails) were placed in a row awaiting noontime. A red bucket on a three-cornered shelf held the drinking water. One dipper served all until the trend toward sanitation dictated that each scholar should bring a collapsible cup--one of the modern innovations of the day. Some winters, parents took turns sending the makin's for hot soup. Heating water and washing dishes were also a part of the "hot lunch program."

Installation of a telephone caused a flurry of excitement. It was the only country school with a telephone then. The Marion French home a short distance away was used as a "central" where Mrs. French relayed messages. Only in dire emergencies was the instrument used, but when sickness or accidents occurred it was a great aid to the teacher. (See "Impromptu Operations.")

Such was their love for Brushy that some children cried when Sandy Creek went on a rampage, barring their way. To get his daughter, Gladys, to quit crying on such an occasion, Will Grant hitched his horses to a wagon, put Glad aboard and drove toward school. Reaching Old Sandy, they started to ford it. The strong current forced the team downstream but they eventually landed on the other side without capsizing and Glad got to her beloved classes. Brush College was a typical country grade school but to those who learned readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic in it there never was and never will be another one quite like it.

IMPROMPTU OPERATIONS

The germ-free, air-filtered, stainless steel, tiled, brilliantly lighted, spotless and shining surgical rooms in today's large modern hospitals are like a dream, compared to conditions under which some vital surgery was performed decades ago. Two such operations follow.

Cliff Stateler, one of Wenona's respected elderly citizens, has never forgotten the experience he had when a boy. He and two other lads heard that a man's leg was going to be amputated by Dr. Charles E. Fogg, a local physician, so they hurried to the doctor's home. His office was in the front of this large residence two doors north of the Methodist Church (now owned by Deneens). There, with noses pressed against the large pane of an east window, the trio spied the patient stretched on a table and, scared but fascinated, they watched every move as Dr. Fogg performed the arduous, sanguinary task. Cliff can still see in retrospect every detail of the cutting, sawing of bone, and stitching. The operation was a success and the man lived many years.

When Frances Peterson (Lundgren) wended her way to Old Brushy country school one morning years ago, she had no idea that before the day was over she would have submitted to major lung surgery. She became critically ill in class and the teacher used the school telephone to call "central" at the Marion French house. The message was relayed and as a result, Fran was carted home and deposited on the kitchen table where Doctors Peterson of Rutland and Yarnell of Wenona performed an emergency operation for empyema of the lung--no simple task. Fran is living proof of its success as she teaches her own classes in school today.

HOME CURES FOUND IN THE BACK OF A NINETEENTH CENTURY COOKBOOK

FOR THE LUNGS--A quart (or less if too strong) of tar, stirred 5 minutes in a gal. of water, and 1/4, or a tumbler, taken 4 times a day, an hour or two after meals, is said to clear the lungs and give greater ease in public speaking.

TAPE WORMS are said to be removed by refraining from supper and breakfast, and at 8 o'clock taking 1/3 part of 200 minced pumkinseeds, the shells of which have been removed by hot water; at 9 take another 1/3; at 10 the remainder, and follow it at 11 with a strong dose of castor-oil.

WENONA SCHOOLS

The first public school of Wenona was built in 1863 in the northwest part of town on the lot now (1968) owned by Miss Freidaborg Helander. The frame structure, 34 x 80 feet, two stories high, was the main building. Another wing of the same size was added in 1866. The total cost was \$9000. Mr. Bryant was the first teacher.

In 1881 the building was used for high school and seventh and eighth grades. A wing was added to the east side of the building for the grammar grades. A four year high school was taught with a selection of subjects. Those required are the same taught today. Mr. George Parker was the first high school superintendent. The first class to be graduated in 1884 was one girl, Inez Wingate (Mrs. John Dent). Six teachers were on the staff.

The year the high school was started a one room building was erected for the primary grades. This was located where Bethany Lutheran Church now stands.

In 1891 a brick building was built in the west end of town. It was located where Wenona now has a city park shelter. This was a three story building. The lower floor was used for the grades and the upper floor for high school. The attic had an area large enough for the boys to play basketball.

The four rooms for the elementary pupils each had two grades. Reading, writing and arithmetic were the important subjects. The playground had many kinds of shade trees which were used for nature study. At least once a year each room would hike a mile or two down the country road to observe the wild flowers and animals along the road. They stopped at a large shade tree to eat a sack lunch and returned to school to summarize the trip. Each spring they had a program outdoors called May Day. There was always a May pole dance, circle dances and drills.

The children enjoyed the shady playground. They played blackman, three deep, drop the handkerchief, marbles and baseball. The only playground equipment was a merry-go-round.

The high school had one large room for the assembly room and three class rooms. The subjects taught were English, Grammar, History, Algebra, Geometry, Physics and Latin. The grounds on the north side of the building were graveled for the high school boys to practice basketball and baseball.

By 1918 the enrollment increased and the building was too small for grade and high school. The high school was moved to the large frame home of Mr. Cowen which was on the grounds now occupied by Wenona Community School. In 1921 a proposition to establish a Wenona Community High School was voted on and in January, 1927 the first classes were held in the new building. This building is today (1968) used for high school classes. The Board members at that time were;

M. J. French, president, H. D. Hodge, John Flahaven, P. W. Healy and C. A. Lindgren.

In 1949 it was voted to enlarge the school district uniting the town school, grade and high, and all the rural schools which included parts of Marshall, LaSalle and Livingston Counties. This was called the Wenona Community Unit District No. 1. A fleet of five buses was purchased to pick up and return high and grade school pupils. Two wings were added to the high school building, extending north and west. There were fourteen classrooms, a central office, cafeteria, home economics room, industrial arts shop, band shell, agricultural shop and a large gymnasium in the new structure.

When the new building opened in 1952-53 the grade school had a teaching staff of twelve. The high school had eleven members on the faculty. The school board members were; Dr. William Gilman, president, Ralph Drummet, Mark Healy, Ronald Coons, Leroy Hoge, Gary Metzger and Albert Bassi.

Again in 1968 another great change is taking place. The St. Mary's Catholic school has closed. These pupils will enter public school, increasing the elementary school enrollment to approximately 350. There will be two rooms of each grade from first through eighth grade. The seventh and eighth grades will be on the first floor of the high school building.

P. T. A. ORGANIZED

On November 5, 1947 a Parent-Teachers Association of the Grade School was organized. Mr. Mark McClure was president. It opened with a membership of seventy very active participants. They held many money making programs and worked hard to start the hot lunch program.

For many years the P. T. A. kept the relationship among the teachers, parents and the community in a harmonious atmosphere by social and instructional gatherings.

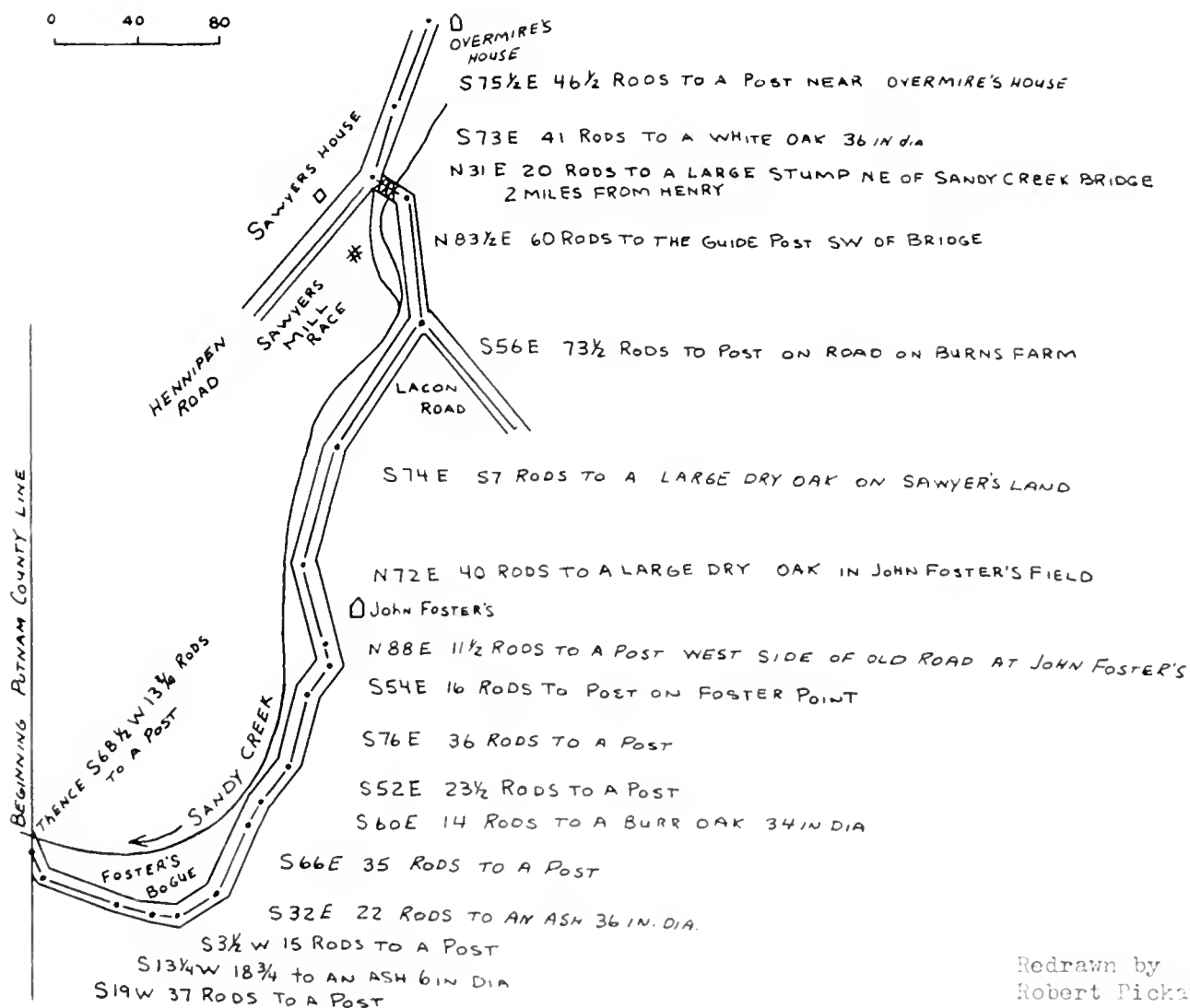
The P. T. A. in 1968 is very poorly attended. Since the Unit District has been formed this organization isn't as helpful because the needs of the school are taken care of by the district.

STATE ROAD FROM HENRY TO MOON'S POINT VIA MAGNOLIA, No. 25

SURVEY OF STATE ROAD IN MARSHALL COUNTY ILLINOIS

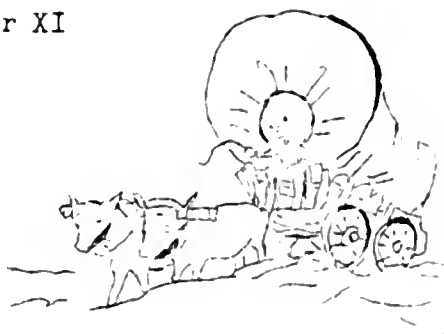
by THOMAS PATTERSON JUNE THE 11th 1845

BEGINNING AT AN ASH TREE 8 INCHES IN DIAMETER ON THE SOUTHWEST
BANK OF SANDY CREEK & ON THE LINE OF PUTNAM & MARSHALL
COUNTY 165 RODS FROM THE MOUTH OF SANDY CREEK.



Chapter XI

HIGHWAYS
AND
BYWAYS
IN
EVANS TOWNSHIP



Unlike Old Sandy Creek which flows along freely, good roads are the result of planning, labor and expenditure of funds.

In the early 1800s pioneers were arriving with all of their belongings in covered wagons after a slow, tedious and often dangerous journey over rough wagon trails which later became modern highways.

Henry (Hank) Flesburg who was Evans Township's Commissioner of Highways for twenty-eight years, remembers the old country roads long before he took office in 1939 which was exactly 100 years after the forming of Marshall County as its boundaries are now.

Mr. Flesburg's predecessor, Wm. Hoskins, was commissioner for seven years and before him, Clarence Axline for twenty-eight years, a total of sixty-three years' service by these three men. The first V-shaped snowplow used on the township's roads was made by Mr. Axline, using wooden planks. In earlier years roads were sometimes impassable for weeks but farmers seemed content to stay close to home fires although there was no radio or television then to entertain them. When necessary, openings were made in fences so horses could pull sleds or wagons across the fields where roads were drifted shut.

Prior to Mr. Axline's term, three road commissioners were elected instead of just one. Information about those elected in 1850 was found in an old record book rescued by Paul Heike from a trash pile over 100 years after it was written in the fine Spencerian penmanship of Town Clerk Alfred Judd and others.

At "the first Town meeting in the Town of Evans on Tuesday the 2nd day of April in the year of our Lord 1850 at the School House in district No. 2 of Town said," with Joshua Evans acting as Moderator and Alfred Judd as Clerk, three Commissioners of Highways were elected: David F. Griffith who received 33 votes, Samuel W. Jones, 30 votes and Alston Bowman, 18 votes. For Overseer of Highways-- Joshua Evans and John E. Hunt each received 14 votes. As a result of "a drawing by the Moderator," Mr. Hunt became Overseer.

The old record book also contained field notes, drawings of road surveys and plats for declaring new public highways that are in use today. On April 19, 1851, a tax of 14¢ on each \$100 worth of real estate was assessed for roads. On August 9, 1851 a fee of \$3 was paid to B. Thos. Patterson, Marshall County surveyor, for surveying a road in Evans Township "vix T. 30 N., R. 1 E of the 3rd. P.M. Md. line." "chainmen" who measured distance by chains were allowed 75¢ per day for assisting the surveyor. Jacob Myers and Alston Bowman were both listed as Overseers of Highways in 1851.

When Henry Flesburg started his tenure in 1939, about half of the roads were dirt, then more were graveled every year. Blacktopping was started in 1958 and continued at the rate of about two miles a year until in 1967 approximately 20 miles had been blacktopped and 30 miles graveled. Hank recalls that in 1950 there was a bond issue of \$40,000 and a gravel crusher and crane were bought to speed the blacktopping prodedure with a gravel base. All gravel used came from a pit on Fritz Braymen's farm until 1947, then it was hauled from French's land in Section 7, Evans Twp., northwest of Wenona.

Hank remembers that in 1939 he started with one old tractor-drawn grader. In 1967 equipment included a \$23,000 Caterpillar grader, three large trucks, a pick up truck and modern snow plows. Each new truck bought was bigger than the previous ones. At first he had one assistant but later two were required. Roads were maintained, improved, widened, and new culverts and bridges were built. The most expensive bridge at the beginning of his regime cost \$1100. It was made of iron and wood. In 1966, a bridge of steel and reinforced concrete in the same location cost \$49,000. The latter has been crossed by a 45-ton crane and other heavy machinery--a far cry from the weight of a horse and buggy.

In 1967, Henry Flesburg, a very likeable fellow who did his work well for 28 years, decided he did not choose to run for office again. Victor Volker was elected to succeed him and is the present Evans Township Highway Commissioner.

LAST PASSENGER TRAIN ON I.C. ENDS PHASE OF HISTORY April 12, 1935

When the last regularly scheduled passenger train puffed on April Fool's Day through towns along the Illinois Central right of way between Freeport and Clinton, Illinois, it ended a phase of Illinois and LaSalle county history that began 90 years ago.

There will be no more passenger trains on the line between Freeport and Clinton. In the Streator area: Wenona, Rutland, Minonk, Lostant, and Tonica and the cities of Oglesby, LaSalle and Mendota are affected. However, passengers are being carried on coaches attached to freight trains which go north and south on alternate days.

For more than 15 years prior to the Civil War there was discussion of the advisability of building a railroad from the southern tip of the state at Cairo to Galena in the hills of Jo Daviess county, where the state of Illinois forms a triangle with Iowa and Wisconsin on the other two sides.

Some of the most prominent men in the nation at that time backed the proposed railroad. Among them were eastern bankers, financiers, pioneer railroad backers, importers, exporters, and members of Congress.

Finally in 1851 the proposed railroad obtained a charter from the Illinois general assembly. In return for land rights the corporation agreed to pay a percentage of its gross annual revenue to the state which agreement is still in force.

There was not enough idle labor in the country at that time to construct such a large railroad line, over 300 miles long.

So the Illinois Central corporation scoured the British Isles and western Europe for laborers. Attractive offers were made and thousands of Irish, Scotch, and English workmen, with a smaller scattering of French and Germans, came to Illinois to help build a railroad in a foreign land.

The corporation hired young army engineers, some just out of West Point, to draw plans for bridges and rights of way. Among them was a young lieutenant, George B. McClellan, "Little Mac" to the soldiers of the Union troops which he commanded in the Civil War. McClellan built the Illinois Central bridge which spanned the Illinois river at LaSalle. He was aided by N.B. Snaks another man who became a Union army general.

Two of the greatest men Illinois ever produced, found themselves, for once on the same side of the fence when the railroad question came up.

One was Abraham Lincoln. The other was Stephen A. Douglas. The latter used his powerful influence in congress to have the line built. Lincoln

supported the same plan, as a private and very influential resident of Illinois.

A hitch developed in the railroad plans. The line was first built farther west than it now runs and was to have gone through Peru. Embankments were built and space left for bridges to span small gullies. Then the line was laid out further east. But the embankments remained and are still to be seen on the farm of the late Charles Nudge, south of Peru.

The first trains ran through LaSalle county in 1852, preceding by months the early Burlington and Rock Island lines, which went east and west across the county.

The line was a powerful aid to the union in the Civil War. Over it passed thousands of troops and vast amounts of war materials for southern battlefields. Had the southern armies succeeded in cutting the line above Cairo, the union armies would have been placed in a precarious position.

One of the tales that has become a part of rich Illinois history concerns a terrific snow storm that blocked the Illinois Central lines several days in the winter of 1856.

A passenger train on the line became stalled in the huge snowbanks south of LaSalle. Passengers on board were entertained by a tall man with a stove pipe hat and an inexhaustible supply of stories who alternated his tales with stoking the wood-burning stove in the passenger coach.

He was Lincoln who had been in Ottawa on business before the supreme court, representing the Illinois Central for which he was an attorney.

Probably his last trip through LaSalle county was made over the same road, in July, 1859, en route to Chicago on legal matters for the railroad.

CHAPTER XII

WENONA'S SOCIAL LIFE IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

The arrival of the twentieth century found Wenona busy and prosperous. A Lacon newspaper in February of 1900 declared her the best business town in Marshall County. The Chicago and Alton Railroad sent four trains east and four west each day, so Chicago and Peoria, not to mention Streator, were widely used shopping centers and sources of entertainment. The Illinois Central had three passenger trains north and south each day and often featured special excursion rates. On November 15, 1900 a special theater train to Bloomington and return gave all its patrons an opportunity to see New Dominion by the prominent playwright, Clay Clement at the Grand Opera House, with a return trip costing for the evening \$1.50. No culture famine existed for the "belles and beaux of the era."

Modern conveniences were looking up. The first deep city well was operating nicely by 1900 with the pumping done by the new Light and Power Company of Wenona, and the mains were furnishing water throughout the town. The city fathers were discussing the need for building cement sidewalks to supplant the board ones that needed much repair. Telephone lines extended into the country area and in February of 1900 a line connecting Varna to the "Gant's Central" in Wenona was erected. The new City Hall shone forth in its red brick splendor with light brick trim, the Voluntary Fire Department took its work seriously, and the Wenona Index, on its editorial page, where it advertised itself and the Farm Journal for \$1.50 a year, declared that with its three hundred subscribers it was full of gumption and full of sunshine, with an immense circulation among the best people.

Although the removal of the Zinc Works that employed a hundred men occurred in the early years of the new century, The Stanton Hotel, a fine new structure, did a capacity business, and a new steam laundry, called The Sherwood Laundry, with latest and best equipment, gave service and employment to the community. Buying and selling a land was active. In one edition of the Index two farms of one hundred twenty acres of good black land, each with good house and good orchard were available at \$60.00 per acre.

Very active politically, Wenona was honored with the 20th district Senatorial Convention of the Republican Party on June 5, 1900. It was said that at a committee meeting Messrs. Taggart of Wenona and Forte of Lacon eloquently convinced the members from Livingston, Woodford and Marshall counties that Wenona should be the Convention City, so the next senator and two representatives from the twentieth district were nominated in Wenona.

The young lads occasionally performed eye-brow raising stunts in 1900 as they do today. A quote from an Index story recounts: "Last Friday evening

Rufus Monk and two young ladies started out to enjoy sleighing and near the new City Hall their sleigh was pounced upon by several town youths. The frail seat gave way, the ladies were thrown to the frozen ground and were very distraught. It is reported that several dollars in damage will have to be dug up by our local boys.

As the century rolled on, Wenona continued to prosper. The rich farm land, The Wenona Coal mine working at peak capacity, the fine business houses, two prosperous banks, and good transportation brought wealth to many families. With the wealth came a diversity of social activities. For the young at heart a Dancing Club was organized which was active for over ten years. An account in the Wenona Index in April of 1900 was as follows: "The Dancing Club held its Friday Night Ball with an attendance of thirty couples who danced to the music of Fenelle's Orchestra of Peoria. Those present went to Hotel Stanton at midnight where they partook of a delicious supper prepared for them."

For the successful business men a Commercial Club was organized. Columbus Kayes and Charles Scott were organizers of the Club. Their quarters on the second floor of the Kane Bros. Pool Hall was richly furnished with comfortable chairs, tables, piano and thick pile rugs. Occasionally the men invited the ladies of the town to a card party and dance in their club rooms. Needless to say these were considered the dress affairs of the season.

For those devoted to the improvement of women everywhere there were active church organizations, the Housekeeper's Club and the Women's Literary Club. Two of the programs of 1900 are listed here. One given by the Christian Endeavor Society as follows:

Washington's Birth Social--H one of T. D. Judd--Admission 10¢
 Piano Solo--Bertha Beckwith
 Vocal Duet--George and Martha Washington
 Violin Solo--Mr. Ashley Judd
 Vocal Solo--Mrs. Wm. Monser
 Vocal Solo--Little Elizabeth Monser

And Women's Literary Club Program, March 3, 1900:

Roll Call--Irish Witticisms
 Vocal Duet--Mrs. Charles Scott and Miss Cumings
 Paper--A Housewife in Germany, England and America
 Paper--The Development of the Home as an Aid to Social
 Progress. Flora Taggart, Secretary.

Wenona had Dramatic and musical entertainments of excellent quality throughout the years, the most ambitious of which was the Temple of Fame, an extravaganza based on famous characters in the entertainment world. Mrs. Mercy Scott, Mrs. Margaret Burgess, Mrs. Hattie Monser were some of the most active workers in this, the proceeds of which went to increase the funds for the Wenona Bond Library. Wenona's public library was one of the few continuous libraries in Marshall County. It was begun in 1905 through the efforts of Mrs. C. K. Wolfe and the Wenona Literary Club.

The Wenona Band under the leadership of D. C. Stateler was a popular organization for twenty years, giving Wednesday night con-

certs during the summer in Wenona, appearing at the Old Settler's Picnic in Lacon, the Marshall County Fair in Henry, the Chautauquas in Wenona, Implement Fair, Peoria, and celebrations in many other towns in the area.

For several winters in the 1920's and for the pure love of music, a small group of musicians calling themselves The Little Symphony met in their various homes once a week and, shouldering their own expenses, played standard music and donated their services to organizations putting on benefit entertainments for Wenona. Among active members were Mrs. Lura Howe, Mr. Leonard Monk, Miss Mayme Harrington, Mr. E. Clark Harter, Mr. Dewitt Stateler, Mr. Elbert Barker and Mr. Clarkson Brown.

Auction bridge took Wenona by storm and at least two clubs met regularly in homes of members. About once a year the beautiful and spacious homes of such social leaders as Mrs. Robert Burgess Sr., Mrs. Charles Burgess Sr., Mrs. George Hodge, Mrs. Harry Taggart, Mrs. George Monser, Mrs. Charles Burgess Fr., and Mrs. Charles Scott were opened for gala bridge parties. Often as many as twelve to fourteen tables were set up and unhappy was the bridge player who did not receive an invitation.

For many years a New Years Day "At Home" invitation was sent out two weeks in advance by prominent matrons, and on the day set, the young men and old, attired in their best, presented themselves at the various homes sometime during the day. Sometimes the punch bowl contained light refreshments, sometimes loaded liquid, so often by the end of the day the callers were seeing through rose colored glasses. On the whole the delightful custom was most enjoyable, for the men had left their calling cards, had spoken sweet nothings to the charming ladies in attendance and had assured themselves of invitations to the nice things in the year ahead. With the coming of World War I this delightful celebration passed from the Wenona scene. For all these matrons with large homes and elaborate entertaining, maid service was necessary and several men kept gardens and chauffeurs to assist them.

After World War I when the boys returned from France, the community made every effort to re-create the pre-war life, but the prosperity of the earlier years didn't return. Many wealthy families including the John and George Hidges, the Tom and Ashley Judds, the William Monsers, and Robert Burgess Sr., had moved to California taking with them their interesting families. Soon the Wenona mine closed down. No new industries came into Wenona at this time, so the community settled down to catering to the products of the rich farm land.

Things to look forward to in these years were the Jubilesta, a carnival type celebration lasting for three days and sponsored by the business men and the American Legion. The Wenona Catholic Daughters of America sponsored a Holiday Ball midway between Christmas and New Years, and the Fireman's Ball was held in midwinter. This was a big social affair attracting young and old alike, as the ladies vied with each other over the beauty of their gowns.

With the passing of the big fortunes, the depression of the thirties, and the disappearance of the dance bands, Wenona's social life became quite commonplace, but those who still remember like to talk about Wenona's grand old days.

SWEDISH CHEESING

A most interesting tradition that brought country life in close association with the town people was Swedish Cheesing.

It was a custom among the Swedish folks to make Christmas cheeses, a tradition brought by their ancestors from the old "home-land." A month or so before Christmas "cheessing parties" were held. Often the first such gathering of the year in the local area was at the Bethany parsonage. Cans of fresh milk were brought by the women and poured into large wash boilers and heated to the right temperature on the old coal range. About ten gallons of milk were used to make one whole cheese weighing about five pounds. Rennet was added and the milk was stirred with large ladles until the curds began to form, then it was left to "set", and the curds separated from the whey. The curds were carefully dipped out and placed in round steamers lined with cheesecloth. The whey was pressed out through the cloth. This was done with great care lest the whey should spurt out through a hole or opening in the cloth and squirt all over the kitchen or the one doing the pressing. The pressed curds, with salt added, were placed in round molds and set aside in a warm, dry place to cure or age until the Christmas holidays.

The "cheesings" were an all day affair which called for a noon meal of food brought by the ladies. Often the children came along as there were no baby sitters in those days. These get-togethers were truly enjoyable affairs and seemingly a "little bit of Sweden" was brought back in memory to these friendly folks.

Bethany Parsonage Cheese Party Photo - 1906

Back Row, left to right: Mrs. Alfred Helander, Mrs. Gust Claussen, Mrs. August Lindgren, Mrs. (Rev.) Gustaf Erickson (holding cheese), Mrs. August Appleton, Mrs. August Bergsten, Mrs. John Swanson, Mrs. Oscar Johnson. Middle Row: Mrs. Ed Nelson, Mrs. Oscar Hylin, Mrs. Algot Flesburg, Mrs. John Holmstrom, Sr., Mrs. C. O. Flesburg, Mrs. Charles Esterdahl, Mrs. Anna Engstrand (holding son Jerome). Children: Elof Hylin (on step above), Leonard Flesburg, Inez and Iner Helander, Mildred and Everett Flesburg.

Swedish Cheesing (Ostkalas) 1906—Wenona, Ill.



UPS AND DOWNS OF WENONA BUSINESS

1923 was the year of the big hard-road building in the state. The contract for the Wenona-Minonk piece of Illinois No. 2 was awarded, and the road from Wenona to Streator during the next year or so. This was also the year of the Ku Klux Klan and their fiery crosses, although, evidently, they were not too active in this territory. Prohibition was the law of the land, and the bootleggers were flourishing. The county was quite hard on one bunch of them, fining each one that appeared in court an average of \$600 and costs, and forfeiting the bonds of the absent ones. This harsh treatment was not repeated in later years. Slot machines came in for some unfavorable comment.

The Scope Theatre was now open Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday evenings, and the show of the year was "The Sheik," with Rudolph Valentino and Agnew Ayers. The Index was carrying the comic strip "Home Sweet Home" as a weekly feature.

Automobiles were beginning to have a profound effect on the town's business, as more and more people combined a pleasure trip on a new hard-road with a shopping expedition. Not that the roads were jammed with cars. In fact, one of the favorite methods used by robbers was to place a car crosswise on the road, and then rob the occupants of any car brought to a halt by this roadblock. This was very effective at night.

Wenona had its share of automobile dealers. Goodwin Bros. & Co., was advertising the Ford Touring at \$295 and a Tudor, with windows, at \$590. E. T. Krantz listed the Buick four-cylinder at \$865 to \$1,325 and the six-cylinder model from \$1,175 to \$1,675. W. C. Lixline Garage had the Star agency, and M. M. Holmstrom was selling Chevrolets. Ralph French had one of the early tractor agencies for Allis Chalmers.

In 1933, Wenona was in the depths of the Great Depression, although the agricultural depression and the closing of the mine in 1925 had made it felt six or seven years before. Franklin D. Roosevelt was president, and the first hundred days of his administration made headlines everywhere. The first step he took that affected Wenona directly was the closing of the nation's banks in March, 1933. For the first time in almost 60 years, the town had no banking facilities. There was much talk of the revival of clearinghouse scrip, such as had been used in 1905. Fortunately, the First State Bank, the town's only bank since the Farmers State Bank's voluntary liquidation of several years previous, was in good financial condition and reopened as soon as the law permitted. Late in the year, a published statement of the bank showed assets of \$827,900.00.

The state had a sales tax for the first time, and people had trouble distinguishing between the 1¢ sales token and a dime.

A solution for the farm problem was proposed that would help take care of the surplus grain. It was the manufacture of fuel alcohol from grain, and its substitute for gasoline in cars. The alcohol would cost more per gallon but would give more miles per gallon. Several of these plants were opened to make fuel alcohol, and the original plan was to substitute 10% of the alcohol in each gallon of motor fuel. This amount would not affect the functioning of a car motor at all. The plan, although basically sound, aroused little enthusiasm, outside of some sections of the corn belt.

The population of the town had fallen off gradually since 1925, and by 1933 it was about half what the population had been at its peak. Businesses came and went rather rapidly, and the future outlook seemed gloomy. Without any industry, Wenona had to depend on its farm trade and the farmers were far from prosperous. J. H. Aukland sent 29 head of yearling Herefords to Chicago in September, 1933, and topped the market at \$6.90 per hundred pounds.

Bremer's were gone, and Jack Zimmerman had the clothing store where they had been. Spencer Snyder had opened the Wenona Variety. Barrett's and Kreider's were still the hardware stores. The grocery stores were Beckmans, Lambours, Crestos and Krogers. W. H. Blakely had the City Fuel Coal Yard, and the Wenona Coal Co. was also selling coal. W. C. Axline still had the Chevrolet garage, and Goodwins, the Ford dealership.

The Illinois Central and the Alton were running passenger trains, but only one each way daily. The Alton did run several excursions to the Chicago World's Fair at least one during the summer of 1933, judging by the news in the local items.

In 1934, the town was really feeling the impact of the second World War. One hundred thirty-nine local men and women were already in the service, and the total number of Veterans was to be more than two hundred and fifty. Those who were left were up to their ears in war work of various kinds. The farmers were turning out huge quantities of food stuffs, without adequate help and with pre-war machinery. If the machinery broke down, it was patched up. The men, who were not in service or farming, were working the defense plants, on the ration board, draft board or with the Red Cross. The women were not idle either. There were bandages to be made, blood to be donated and many other types of war work. Rationing was the order of the day. War Bond drives were universally successful, and Evans and Osage Townships always made their quotas, usually exceeding them. Everyone was drawn closer together in a common spirit of sacrifice. The people of Wenona and vicinity can be proud of their war record.

The stores in Wenona were prosperous during the war. There was more money in the hands of the people than ever before, and not much to spend it on. As a result, bank accounts grew. The First State Bank had assets of \$1,367,000 in 1943, an increase of half a million dollars during the previous ten years. This upward trend in bank assets accelerated during the remainder of the war, and by 1946 the assets were two million dollars.

The progressive policy of the First State Bank was largely due to the personality and influence of E. Clark Harter, a Wenona area farm boy who graduated from the University of Illinois, served his country as a flyer in the Army Signal Corp, acting as instructor at Langley Field, Virginia, during World War I, and returning to Wenona where he began working for the First State Bank in 1922. He remained as an officer and director until it liquidated in 1946. He was instrumental in starting the Wenona State Bank as a successor to the First State Bank in 1946, and he served as president until his death in 1954. Mr. Harter was prominent in state banking circles for many years.

Some of the stores in operation in 1943 were Kurrle's Dry Goods, Braymen's Jewelry, Moran's Market, Barrett's Hardware, Cresto's Grocery, Kulett's Hardware, Lambourn's and Krogers, groceries.

1953--After the close of World War II, the servicemen came back home, many of them with families. For the first time in many years, Wenona was suffering from an acute housing shortage. New houses sprang up on practically every vacant lot, and old houses were remodeled. There seemed to be jobs for anyone who wanted to work, either in town or in larger cities like Streator or Peoria. Business houses remodeled and expanded. There were new businessmen also.

The largest project completed after the war was the huge new elevators of the Wenona Grain Company, which hold approximately 150,000 bushels of grain. The Wenona Grain Company has been in business some sixty years, having started out originally as J. H. Taggart & Son.

Two new industries had started since the war. Wenona Wear, Inc., manufactured baby clothes for the Napper Company, which had nationwide sale.

Wenona was prosperous, and its population continued to grow. The prices received by farmers had declined from their post-war peak, but they were much higher than before the war.

Wenona, in its second century, had an air of quiet confidence in the future which was indeed heartening.

ARCHWAY COOKIES
OAK STATE PRODUCTS COMPANY

A new industry came to Wenona in 1952. The Chamber of Commerce reported that some twenty thousand dollars had been pledged to buy the Bishop Construction Company building on North Walnut Street for the Swanson Cookie Company.

Jim Doyle and his son-in-law, John Dill had been in the bakery business in Mansfield, Ohio, and the third partner was John H. Parker, Doyle's brother-in-law. When they acquired the exclusive franchise to use the Swanson name and recipes in Illinois from the Swanson Cookie Company, Inc., of Battle Creek, Michigan, they visited several mid-Illinois towns looking for a central location where they could establish their bakery and distribution center. The Wenona Chamber of Commerce was able to act as intermediary in the purchase of the 60 x 64 foot concrete block building which was remodeled for their use.

Production started in April, 1952, after the installation of the few pieces of necessary machinery and other equipment. Mr. Segard, a mixer, was loaned to the new company by the Michigan plant to help them get started. Elmer Stalter of Minonk, joined the staff in June and later was made plant superintendent.

A modest beginning soon boomed into quantity productions as the Home Made cookies caught on. The plant carried on a round-the-clock operation in three shifts, five days a week. From 15 to 18 people were required on each shift with twenty-two different kinds of cookies being made. Two large trucks, each with a capacity of 10,000 dozen cookies were required to supply the 26 distributors scattered over the state.

In 1956 Byron W. Goulding and Donald Christy purchased the Archway plant and a few years later Mr. Christy sold his interest to Mr. Leighton.

A disastrous fire occurred on March 11th, 1963 about 3:30 A.M. When discovered the entire interior was aflame. Office equipment and company records were all lost together with the machinery and stock. That same day Jim Kupec was sent to Boon, Iowa to supervise a third shift at the Archway plant there. With the assistance from bakeries in Michigan, Archway didn't miss filling its orders.

Plans were immediately begun to rebuild. Mr. Leighton and Mr. Goulding ordered new equipment and said they would definitely stay in Wenona and planned to be back in production by June 1st. In April of 1963 they purchased five acres of land south of Wenona and construction was expected to start immediately. Newer and more modern equipment was installed and a new ultra modern band oven had replaced the old one. True to their prediction, production was started in June. The operation was similar, but

many new improvements had been added.

Three new additions had been built since the original building and approximately 35 to 40 people are now employed. Several new kinds of cookies are being made now as well as the old favorites.

Today Archway Cookies are distributed to both independent grocers and to most of the major chain stores throughout the country. The company has an outstanding reputation for producing a high quality product, and service with the general public as well as the grocery industry.

Wenona is indeed proud to have Oak State Products here.

CHANGES IN LAND TRANSFER FROM HOMESTEADING TILL 1968

| <u>Original Owner or Early Owner</u> | <u>Change in Ownership</u> | <u>Present Owner</u> | <u>Operator</u> |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Gus Cusac | Gus Cusac | Spitzer & Wayne Cusac | Wayne Cusac |
| Myers Estate | Myers Estate | Myers Estate | Delbert Baker |
| Bayard Wright, Homesteader | John Wright | Willard Wright | Willard Wright |
| Bayard Wright | Ed Wright | Garnet Wright Mrs. Clara Wright | Leman White |
| Bayard Wright | Belle, Irma, Ralph Wright | Roy Winter | Bill Winter |
| Alfred Judd, Homesteader | French Estate | G.K. Braymen | Fred Henry |
| Judd Land | Junius Brown | Roscoe Judd | Alfred Judd |
| Thomas Judd, Sr. Homesteader | Roscoe Judd & Heirs | Mrs. Vern Calhoun | Kendall Judd |
| Wm.H. Parkinson | Grace Parkinson | Harold Kennell | Missal Bros. |
| Dan Well | Well's Estate | Willis Miller | Willis Miller |
| Benjamin Foster | Thomas Foster | Clayton Foster | Don Sunken |
| Thomas Judd | Ira Cunningham | Alta Symington | Alvin Wcerner |
| J. Wilson | Harry Winter | Roy Winter | Bill Winter |
| J. Wilson | Jay Winter | J. Winter Estate | Eugene Cook |
| Greenberry Fort | Fort Heirs | Louis Colehower | Wally Lindgren |
| A. Allen Estate | Abram & C.M. Allen Est. | Louis Colehower | Darwin Kuehn |
| Hawes Estate | Milton White | Albert Frestin | Albert Frestin |
| Joshua Evans, Homesteader | John Evans | Carl Nelson | Carl Nelson |
| D. Hall Estate | Hall Estate | Wenona Unit #1 | Wenona Unit #1 |
| W.M. Hamilton Est. | W. H. Hamilton | C. Hamilton Leach | Ralph Johnson |
| Milton White | Sam White | Fred Missal | Fred Missal |

| <u>Original Owner or Early Owner</u> | <u>Change in Ownership</u> | <u>Present Owner</u> | <u>Operator</u> |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cap Hawes | Harold Ong | Harold Ong | Wiltbur Foote |
| Shipley Estate | Carrie Engel Oliver Mason | Carrie Engle Oliver Mason | Thaddius Akridge |
| William Swartz, Homesteader | Carmi, Arthur, Charles Swartz | Proctor Estate | Robt. Henderson |
| Dr. J. B. Hudson | H. M. Taggart | Taggart Est. | W. Wadtke |
| B. Fowler | Richard Taylor | Taylor Heirs | Allan Taylor |
| William Swartz, Homesteader | Harry Swartz | Clarence Aeschliman | Clarence Aeschliman |
| Aaron Axline | Axline | H. B. Axline | Viron Peterson |
| Hodge Estate | George Hodge | Univ. of Ill. | Herb. Wenzlaff |
| Grimes Estate | John Hodge | Hodge Heirs | Clarence Schaefer |
| Wilson Estate | Guy Wilson | Pearl Wilson | Bill Umbarger |
| Francis Thierry | Fred Thierry | Homer Thierry Mrs. Wilma Thierry | Raymond Crone Joe Weiland |
| Wilson Estate | Edith Gants | Lura Gants Hawley | Louis Bentlin |
| Joshua Evans | Douglas Evans | Mrs. Stanley Barnes | Ellsworth Strobe |
| Samuel Cox | J. S. Thompson | Emma Mae Scholz | Vernon Kerner |
| B. Moore | Chas. Burgess, Sr. | Axel Helander Geo. Ball | Axel Helander |
| J. W. Holton | John Crone | Edwin Schwidorski | Edwin Schwiderski |
| Joseph Donnelly | Elmer McClure | Edwin Schwidorski | Edwin Schwiderski |
| Harney Haugens | Edward Haugens | Harold Lutz | Harold Lutz |
| Charles Woolf | Julian Woolf Charlene Woolf Kramer | Julian Wayne Woolf & Charlene Woolf Kramer | Roy Flesburg |
| Griffin Estate | Griffin Estate | Ball Bros. | Raymond Crone |

| <u>Original Owner or Early Owner</u> | <u>Change in Ownership</u> | <u>Present Owner</u> | <u>Operator</u> |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| George Griffin | Harry Griffin | Harry Griffin | Griffin Heir |
| Benjamin Darnell, Homesteader | Wilber Mann | Mrs. Wilber Mann | Virgil Mann |
| McAdams Homesteaders | Austin Garvin | John Garvin | Ed Weisbrock |
| Chalfant | Aug. Lindgren | Lindgren Heirs | C. Lindgren |
| David Moore | W. T. McAdams | H. E. Axline | Viron Peterson |
| W. T. McAdams | Bill Miller | Bill Miller | Bill Miller |
| Sam McAllister | Jim McAllister | Dave Johnson | Gaylord Johnson |
| Arthur Turner | Lee Turner | Ed Paulsen | Larry Paulsen |
| Arthur Turner | Lynn Turner | Louis Colehower | Gus Volker |
| Joshua Evans | Lewtellis Kemp | Dell Kemp & Heirs | Edward Nenne |
| Minor Ames | J. H. Taggart | Louis Colehower | Wesley White |

STARS THAT SHINE FOR WENONA

Among some of Wenona's people who have acquired prestige in certain fields in their lifetimes have been:

* DENT PARRETT who invented the tractor and moved to Schoolcraft, Michigan where he owned and directed the manufacturing of this tractor.

* LEWIS FUIKS who, under the name of VICTOR ARDEN, headed an orchestra that recorded many records for Victor and had a radio show, The Manhattan Merry-go-Round, in New York City.

* GUY CAHOON, an architect who became prominent in his profession in Dallas, Texas, and wrote a text on architecture.

* LUCILLE KOSINSKI who was a photographer for Hearst Newspapers and later was private secretary to Mr. Meigs of Meigs Air Field.

* DR. AND MRS. PAUL VERNON who conducted an Academy of Fine arts in Chicago in 1939 and now take part in Chamber Music Concerts in Los Angeles. Dr. Vernon serves as choir director for Los Angeles Lutheran Church.

* DEWITT WRIGHT who was head of the law department at Duke University, North Carolina, before his death.

* FLOYD WINTER, agronomy professor at the University of Illinois, who is now head of a foundation studying development of plant species at New Haven, Connecticut.

* GRAHAM KERMWEIN, star half-back for Alonzo Stagg on the Chicago University football team, became one of the prominent orthopedic surgeons in the state and is located at Rockford.

* MRS. MILDRED VAN HORN KING who had won many medals in declamation in Marshall County, joined a Chataqua Circuit and was in this entertainment field for several years.

* Few organizations gave more pleasure to the Wenona area baseball fans than the WENONA GREYS who once played the Chicago White Sox, and four of whose members, DEWITT ERWIN, HERMAN BLOCK, GEORGE MELODY, and CLAUDE WATERS later played in the Minor Leagues for varying periods of time.

* The popular CARMEN QUARTETTE, consisting of AL and FRED BEECHER, CAL ERWIN, and PROFESSOR BARRETT, were harmonizers whose talent was greatly sought after throughout the county.

LUMINARIES WHO HAVE BEEN IN WENONA OR TOUCHED ITS BOUNDARY

* On May 13, 1880 GENERAL GRANT passed through Wenona on a special train and stopped at the Illinois Central depot. The next president made his appearance, and a goodly number of our citizens had the pleasure of shaking hands with him.

* ALFRED LANDON of the sunflower state, Republican candidate for president, came through on the Illinois Central and waved from his observation car window to the people assembled outside to greet the Kansas statesman.

* On November 11, 1937, MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, wife of the president of the United States, paused briefly in this city on Tuesday forenoon. The first lady of the land was on her way to Bloomington, where she was scheduled for an address that afternoon. Her special car was attached to the Illinois Central passenger train arriving in Wenona at 11 A.M. A crowd estimated at 500 was at the station in order to get a glimpse of Mrs. Roosevelt, but a lot were disappointed. She did not leave her seat, but smiled and waved to the people on her side of the train.

Dr. Lindley Bufkin, Wenona physician, was present with his camera and motioned to Mrs. Roosevelt that he wanted a picture. She pressed her face to the window and favored the medico with a dazzling smile.

According to visitors at the station, the train was well guarded by secret service men.

* On Tuesday, November 11, 1937 this city was host to a number of celebrities. The sixteenth district convention of the American Legion Auxiliary was held here that day and Wenona was full of good-looking members of the organization. At 11 o'clock, MRS. ROOSEVELT, wife of our president, stopped here for a short time. In the afternoon, along came EVERETT M. DIRKSEN, our popular congressman, who was slated to give an address at the Auxiliary convention. Both he and Mrs. Roosevelt were of the opinion that the flag-decked street was in their honor but they were wrong. The flags were out as a courtesy gesture to the Auxiliary women.

* SYDNEY SMITH, the famous cartoonist, was to have his Negro chauffeur drive his long black limousine with its Andy Gump cartoon on a window, through the town and stop at Kane's Smoke House where he had a coke and visited with the Kane brothers.

* CHARLES LINDBERG, the Lone Eagle, when he was piloting a mail plane through this area, was forced down at the beacon light on the Howard Aukland farm late in the winter of 1927. He brought the mail into Wenona and stopped at the high school where a basketball game was being played. The night-watchman took him to the postmaster who put the mail into the post office.



C. R. (Cliff) Stateler Plays Civil War Drum

C. R. (Cliff) Stateler, Marshall County's one remaining Spanish-American War veteran, is pictured playing the drum brought to Wenona by Captain Southwell, returning from the Civil War.

The drum was given to Marshall Stateler, father of Cliff. His father played the drum with the National Guard unit located in the Wenona armory, which was the second floor of what is now the J. A. Kurrlee building.

Cliff later played the same drum in the Wenona Band.

Pictured with Cliff and wearing Cliff's Spanish-American War uniform, when he was a corporal in the 1st Illinois Cavalry, is Brent Evans, Wenona High School senior, and a descendant of Joshua Evans, for whom Evans township was named.

Cliff hopes the drum and uniform can some day be the property of the Wenona Museum.

Sesquicentennial Flag at Wenona

Sculpturing the 21-star Illinois Sesquicentennial Flag was Mrs. Marguerite Osborn. The flag was a gift from the former Wenona-California picnic association.

The flag, dedicated July 4, 1968, in a fitting ceremony, will fly over the beautiful Wenona park during the homecoming festivities. It will then become the property of the Wenona Museum.



JUDGE DAN GREGG

In the late teens and twenties a familiar figure could be seen every morn walking down First North Street from the west end of town with a large shepherd dog at his heels. This was Judge Dan Gregg with his tousled sandy hair cropping out from under his hat and his eyes generally twinkling as if he had just heard a good story. The shepherd dog was a definite part of the picture. The story goes that Gregg and his neighbor's small sons each claimed a shepherd dog and quarrels were arising every day so this plan was devised. The boys were stationed on each side of the street with the dog down the street. Both boys were to call the dog and the dog would choose its owner. The plan worked but the dog considered it his business to escort Mr. Gregg on his way.

D. H. Gregg was born August 15, 1867 at Rodman, Jefferson County, New York, one of eight children born to Joseph and Margaret Irwin Gregg. The family moved to Harding, Illinois, a small village in La Salle County in 1872. Dan worked on a farm while young, and attended school during the winter months. He attended Northwestern Normal School at Geneseo, Illinois, taught a country school near Geneseo, then taught school in Chicago for several years. In April, 1898 he came to Wenona and entered the law office of J. H. Jackson to pursue the study of law, then studied at Kent College of Law, graduated in 1902, and a month prior to his graduation he had passed the State Bar examination and was admitted to the Bar. In 1903 Gregg married Martha Missal of Wenona and had three children - Neal, Donald and Lorraine.

During Mr. Gregg's term as mayor of Wenona, the City Hall was built and the City Park in East Wenona was completed. In 1902 he was elected county judge of Marshall County, a position he held for four terms, and was appointed judge of Putnam County during that time. During the same period he was appointed acting probate judge of Cook County in Chicago, the largest court in the United States at that time. He was also appointed judge of LaSalle County for a period of time. In 1912 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention that nominated Woodrow Wilson. In 1919 he was appointed referee in Bankruptcy with office in Peoria and held that office until 1934. Judge Gregg was widely known in politics and had received personal letters from Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In the period from 1912 through 1920 Judge Gregg was a member of the Wenona School Board. With the well-known Doctors Love and Yarnell, Howard Statler, W. H. Moffett, John Locke, and Gregg as members of the school board, teachers really had to come through with credentials to become members of Wenona school's faculty. Judge D. H. Gregg was one of Wenona's fine citizens.

TALENTED NONAGENARIAN

Mrs. E. A. (Alice) Myers who was born November 4, 1875, has taken an active part in countless community affairs and witnessed many events and changes in the passing scene. At ninety-two plus, she is still active--spades, plants and cultivates her vegetable and flower gardens.

Some of her pupils still remember 'way back when she was Alice McDonald and commuted from her home in Rutland to Wenona where she taught "with an iron hand in a velvet glove," at the Phoenix School. Rising early, she drove her horse and buggy daily, or, "when the horse broke down," resorted to the railroad train chugging between the two towns.

Still living in the Wenona home provided by her husband, the late Dr. W. H. Myers, a veterinarian who served in the Spanish-American War cavalry and was the first commander of Wenona American Legion Post #3, Mrs. Myers is widely known for her diversified handwork, especially with shells, oil painting and making cornhusk dolls.

Years ago she was one of the ladies in a popular string quartet which sometimes expanded into an orchestra. Members included Miss Dell Kemp, first mandolin; Mrs. Myers, second mandolin; Mrs. Walter (Lura) Howe, first violin and Mrs. C. B. (Mercy) Scott, guitar. Others pinch-hit if one of these regulars was indisposed and sometimes two generations were represented if Mrs. Howe's daughter, Harriet, or others were drafted to perform. Mrs. R. L. F. Rezner, Mrs. Clark Harter and Miss Blanche Lindgren took their turns accompanying the group on the piano.

The stringed instrument artists were much in demand at social functions. They performed at afternoon teas, evening entertainments and programs, locally or in nearby towns, traveling as far as Chillicothe to play semi-classics for diners at Webb's Inn. Their mellow music was often heard wafting along the airwaves from Wenona's radio station WLBI in the 1920s.

Mrs. Myers is looking forward to resuming mandolin duets with her next-door neighbor, Mrs. Robert Barp. Last time they practiced, the nonagenarian became so absorbed in the score of one of the old string selections and played with such fervor, she fell off her piano stool. Undaunted, she laughed, picked herself up and resumed plucking the strings, hardly missing a chord.

Be it paintbrush, shells, cornhusks, garden fork, snow shovel or mandolin pick, Mrs. Myers has wielded them with all her might for nearly a century and still does.



—Times-Press Photo

MRS. W. A. (ALICE) MYERS, 92, of Wenona, arranges her cornhusk dolls in a creche scene. All of the figures were made by her except the angel above the stable, made of wheat straw, a gift from Mrs. Ronald Tallyn.

Mrs. Myers spends many hours meticulously fashioning each doll. She uses husks of various hues, cornsilk for hair, seashells for buttons and corncobs for feet. Many are historical characters, including Indians and pioneers.

Her cornhusk dolls have been exhibited in schools, at fairs and other events, as far away as California where they won a special award at the National Date Festival.

Samples from Peg Earp's column that ran in the Index in the 1950s:

PEG TALES

July 7, 1955

The subject of nicknames is fascinating.....When I hear someone called a nickname.....I wonder how it came to be.....It is apparent that some belie the character of the one so named.....for instance, mild-mannered, easy-going Ernie Pomerence is known as "Lightning."

A sobriquet can often be traced back to childhood...Take the Pickard brothers. Frank is "Buzz".... Raymond is "Pee-wee" and Phillip is "Fanny." Here's why: In his youth Frank joined a Wenona ball club---The Rinkydinks. Streater's prize pitcher's name was Buzz Ballard... Frank became such a whiz on the mound that fans dubbed him "Buzz".

Phillip was a great friend of elderly Fanny Everly who lived in the house now owned by Ray Smith. The way I heard it, this was a mutual admiration & benefit association--Phil cutting her lawn & doing other chores & she bestowing upon him homemade pie, cake and other items desirable to a boy... Now Miss Everly naturally was not known for basketball prowess..... One day while practicing shooting baskets, Phil was not sinking his shots...which led a pal to holler "You shoot like Fanny Everly!" called "Fanny".

When movie stars Tom Mix and his western sidekick, Pee-wee were popular Sam Monk & Raymond Pickard were nicknamed Tom & Pee-wee... and to this day, some people do not know Pee-wee's real name. Speaking of Sam Monk--Sam isn't his name--it's Roland. But..... that's another story.

PEG TALES

December 8, 1955

Who will ever forget Dec.7, 1941 when Pearl Harbor was attacked?... Gradually Wenona's streets became bereft of young men. Here are excerpts from my contributions to "This, That and Something Else" column in the Index in 1945:

Steve Grimm installing refrigerators that failed to keep him cool in Luzon...Souvenirs from the Marshall Islands from Don Robinson... Red Donnelly in Rome...Helen Merhaut in the USN at Camp Folk..... SPAR Alyce Holmstrom studying to become a cox'n in the Coast Guard. Don Kane writing letters to Eleanor from Belgium but no word from her until he received 50 letters all at once...Hohnny Marks trying to find Bill Lehman, Wenona coach in New Guinea...Red Hallam's Ma beaming because his 101 points rate an early discharge.

Then as they came home, one by one: Louis Milbrandt on crutches ...Doug Verrill with shrapnel in his back...George Monser safe after being missing in action..Pee-wee Pickard & Floyd Johnson getting food ration books--one thing they didn't need in the army..... Buddy Haugens learning to use his cane.....Hohnny Flahaven, Wayne Wright, Bill Archull, Andy Bishop Jack Calhoun, Bill Brunski, Richard Brumsey and others returning.

Did you ever see a dream walking? Well I did. After dreaming of the day war would end & Wenona soldiers & sailors tread these streets again, it became a reality for many...but joy for the returned was dimmed by the absence of those who never came back.

THIS, THAT AND SOMETHING ELSE

By John T. Marks

February 10, 1966

In the long "Little Brown Jug" series with Minonk, which goes back to 1928, the Mohawks have won it 48 times to Wenona's 33.

February 17, 1966

A logging crew is cutting down hard maple and walnut trees out on Big Sandy. At the rate the timber is being cleaned out the day is not far away when the shady slopes of the creek will be just a memory.

February 24, 1966

If automobiles are any criterion, attendance at local churches on Sunday is growing. Drive by any of the city's five churches while services are going on, and you will usually find the parking areas jammed with cars.

March 4, 1966

Sure easy to get confused on these nickels and quarters with the images of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. When turned face up its easy to mistake a quarter for a nickel or vice versa.

March 10, 1966

No keener rivalry exists anywhere in the state than that between Wenona and Toluca in sports and that is no doubt one of the big reasons the two towns keep coming up with good teams year after year. Both hope to be the first to make it to Champaign. This year Wenona has the edge. Darned if it isn't almost as keen a rivalry as the race to the moon between the U.S. and Russia.

THIS, THAT AND SOMETHING ELSE

The Wenona Index, March 24, 1966

"30"

in Tribute to

JOHN T. MARKS

1911 - 1966

Conductor of this Column since

September 12, 1946

Wenona Community Unit No. 1 has lost one of its greatest boosters in the passing of John Marks. This well liked and universally respected individual gave much of his time and effort to school happenings and affairs. I am proud to have known him for the past 27 years. He had a kind word for everyone, and many have remarked, "He spoke no ill."

He was a familiar figure at Wenona basketball games--his 38 years of keeping the score book making him the dean of statisticians in this area. Old and young are avid readers of his column where his interest in clean athletics and good sportsmanship were always felt.

If there is a Valhalla where community stalwarts gather, John Marks will be there.

--A. H. Tomlinson.

THE NEWSPAPER GUY

Some day I'll pass by the Great
Gates of Gold,
And see a man pass through un-
questioned and bold.
"A Saint?" I'll ask, and old
Peter'll reply:
"No, he carries a pass--he's a
newspaper guy."

--By Benjamin Scoville

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS:

Several counties in the State of Illinois have County Flags, and Whereas Marshall County has enough history to warrant a Flag, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Marshall County Board of Supervisors authorize the Historical Society to sponsor a Flag design contest in the schools of Marshall County, under the supervision of C. W. Swanson, County Superintendent of Schools, together with a committee of competent and qualified persons to act as Judges.

RULES TO FOLLOW

- No. 1 Must depict Marshall County History.
- No. 2 Must co-ordinate in shape with the American Flag.
- No. 3 Judges selected must be acquainted with the history of Marshall County.
- No. 4 Any further rules deemed necessary by the committee in charge may be added. Deadline Nov. 1, 1963.

SUGGESTED JUDGES

Mrs. Doris Leonard, Immediate Past State President, and a resident of Putnam County.

Mr. Ray Litchfield, Toluca, Illinois, Local Historian.

Lawrence Reh, Honor Student of History at Bradley University, and one time winner in State Art Contest.

A copy of contest rules shall be sent to every school in Marshall County. All information regarding the contest will be publicized with news items in each County newspaper.

All entries become the property of the Marshall County Historical Society, to be bound together for a future Museum.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED-

(The above is a facsimile of the Resolution that was the first step toward procuring an official Marshall County Flag.)

The Marshall County Historical Society

Presents

" A FLAG IS BORN "

Tuesday, September 29, 1964

K of C HALL, TOLUCA, ILLINOIS

8:00 O'Clock P.M.

Dedication of the Marshall County Flag

P R O G R A M

President, Leland Monier.

Introduction of Flag Committee: Maxine Tomlinson, Chairman,
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Buck, Roscoe Ball (Deceased), Ray
Litchfield, Historian and Judge.

Wilda Russell - Creating a Flag.

Dr. Dan Morse -- Indian Artifacts of Marshall County.

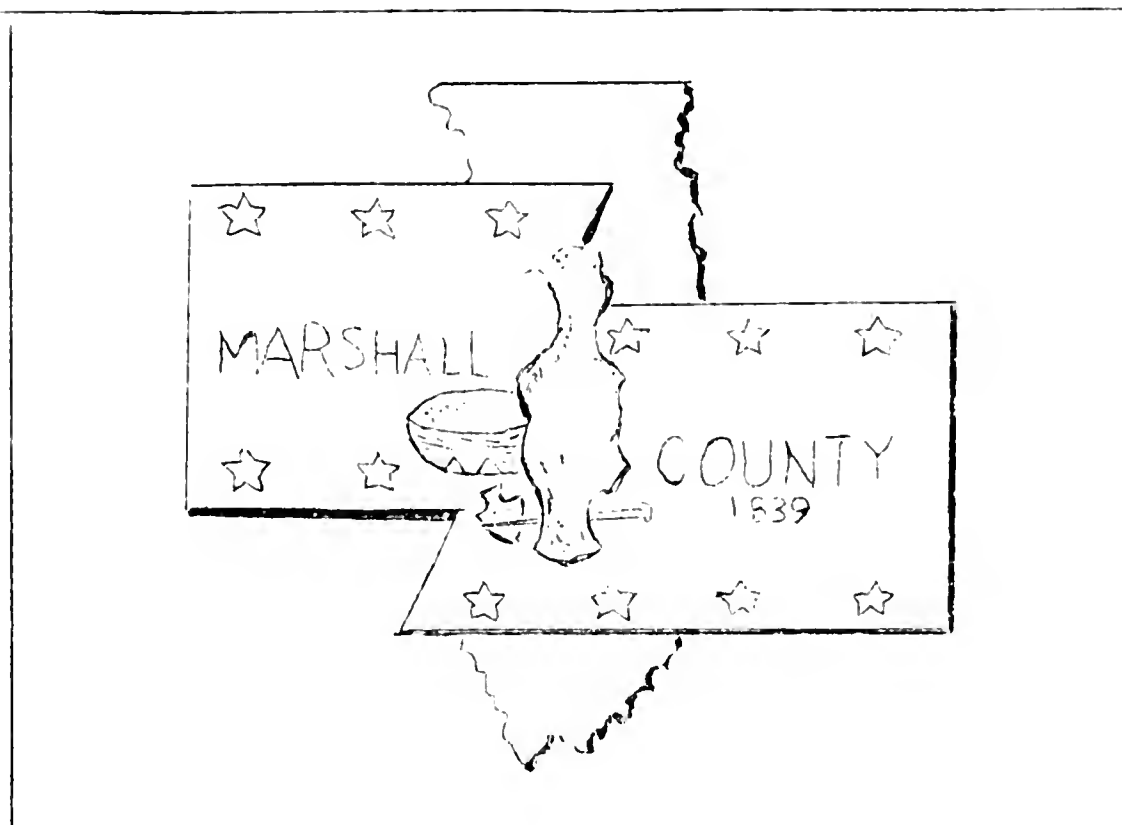
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Kenneth Richmond, and
members: Roy Miller, Ralph Helander, Peter J. Aimone,
Sr., William Held, Raymond Stange, Francis B. Murphy,
Joe Monier, Ralph Buck, Carl L. Junker, James Madison
and Leo Schumacher.

Chairman Gives Approval of Flag Design.

Recognition of Students submitting Flag Designs.

County Officials: Fred G. Garrels, C. W. Swanson, Wayland
Downey, Jay Evans, O. B. Pace, Jr., Iner Peterson,
Robert C. Pries, and Judge E. E. Haugens.

Business meeting.



THE MARSHALL COUNTY FLAG was designed to fly below the stars and stripes of our country; therefore, contrasting colors were chosen. The central figures are artifacts taken from the Steuben Township site by Dan F. Morse, anthropologist. The bird in effigy of valuable blue-grey flint is a nearly perfect specimen as is the bowl, a prize find. The swan bone was used to punctate the bowl. These three artifacts represent a culture of our county from 500 B.C. to 580 A.D. The Hopewellian Indians had attained a very high culture of the fine arts. The arrowhead tells us of a period 500 years later. From this great ancient American culture of the Hopewellian Indians the State of Illinois which celebrated its sesquicentennial this year, came into being. Marshall County was formed in 1839.

In the flag you see an outline of the boundaries of Marshall County superimposed on a silhouette of Illinois. The living green color of the county background represents our many growing crops. The twelve white stars denote our twelve townships: Saratoga, La Prairie, Whitefield, Steuben and Henry, west of the Illinois River; Hopewell, Lacon, Richland, Roberts, Bell Plain, Bennington and Evans, east of the river.

The design is well balanced due to the shape of our county and the fine work of artist Wilda Russell of Wenona.

CHERRY POINT CEMETERY

Copied from Cherry Point Cemetery Records

March 23, 1880--It was moved and carried that the minutes of the April 20, 1861 meeting be recorded in the Recorder's Office of the Marshall County, Illinois office. A motion was offered and prevailed that there be a committee of three to draft by-laws. Wm. M. Springer and Bayard Wright were elected members of said committee. Meeting held at Sandy M. E. Church. Pres. L. Springer, Directors Wm. Evans and Edward Clifford.

July 2, 1880--Balance on hand \$68.93.

Aug. 24, 1880--Sandy Illinois--On motion the president Wm. Springer was instructed to reserve all the old part of Cherry Point Cemetery for parties having friends buried in said cemetery and cause parties not having friends buried in cemetery not to occupy new part until a survey is made.

Nov. 16, 1880--At a meeting held at residence of Albert Evans, it was decided to add on the north of cemetery as much more ground to be laid out in lots, said land to cost at rate of \$40 per acre. A motion was offered and prevailed that there be a meeting in connection with friend to arrange a festival. Proceeds to be used in improving cemetery. Wm. M. Springer, Pres. & Sec.

1881--Received from festival \$74.78. (Dell Kemp reports the festival mentioned from time to time in the minutes was a Strawberry Festival and always held in the early summer. It was the social event of the year, and much anticipated. Alexander Brown was the one man most instrumental in its success. The event was held in the M. E. Church. Boards were placed on the backs of pew to form tables).

May 7, 1881--C. G. Elliott to survey cemetery.

June 16, 1882--On motion to secure monuments for soldiers buried in Cherry Point, committee appointed, G. G. McAdams, Wm. M. Springer, Wm. Dunlap. Moved that it be the scene of this meeting that this organization be organized under the new law. Committee to be A. Evans, Wm. Springer, and Wm. Dunlap.

Nov. 2, 1882--Sandy Illinois--A. Evans a chairman of committee appointed to look into the new law relative to a new organization.

REPORT:--That we are all right without any NEW organization. Sec. T. D. Quaitance.

April 18, 1893--Paid Augustine & Co. for evergreen trees \$5.00.

April 20, 1883--A motion was offered by C. Springer that the matter of pasturing the cemetery by sheep be left in the hands of trustees to do what in their judgement is best. (Carried).

Aug. 23, 1884--Received from Festival \$51.02.

April 24, 1886--Discussion--the best method of tiling. Motion to meet at cemetery Thursday, April 29th to commence tiling. G. G. McAdams, Pres., was requested to draw off a copy of the plat of the cemetery. D. Evans, Sec.

March 25, 1890--Motion that David Moore be allowed to occupy the alley in front of his lot to erect a monument. (Carried). Wm. Kemp, Pres.

March 15, 1890--Motion by Wm. Kemp that W. T. Hamilton see to the digging of graves for the year. There shall be a fee charged of \$3.00 for digging and filling of each grave.

Feb. 27, 1891--David Moore suggested the planting of evergreens in cemetery drive. Moved to negotiate the purchase of swarf evergreens in Bloom-

ington.

April 24, 1891—Purchased from Augustine Nursery 85 evergreen trees.

April 13, 1892—Lot at Cherry Point Cemetery to set out evergreens. G. G. McAdams and two hands, Alex McKirgan, C. F. Riggs, Jas. Hamilton, and hand, Wm. Kemp and John Evans. J. Evans, Sec.

Feb. 25, 1893—20 evergreens missing. Wm. Kemp presented statement of his years work, and presented a bill of \$15.00. On motion the bill allowed and a credit for the same given on his lot. (No 9).

June 8, 1894—\$80.00 raised by subscription to purchase and erect monument to grave of Alfred Hatfield, who served in the Civil War.

June 22, 1894—Motion to accept proposition of R. Mellows of Lacon to furnish monument for Hatfield and marker for M. L. Marsh and Joseph Garner. Entire cost to be \$115.50. (Carried).

Sept. 17, 1894—Motion to purchase a suitable marker for the grave of William Brown, a soldier in the Revolutionary and War of 1812. Secretary instructed to correspond with grandchildren and solicit help.

Nov. 16, 1894—Red granite stone purchased in Lacon for William Brown for \$20.00.

May 6, 1899—On motion A. Garvin was instructed to see what material for Hitch Rack would cost, and have the same put up. (About 16 rods).

Oct. 10, 1907—Paid a minor from Lenox 2.00 to clean up grass.

Mar. 12, 1908—Motion that Samuel McAllister oversee tiling and fencing repair. Junis and Arthur appointed to look after mowing when necessary. Austin Garvin, Pres. Edwin Wright, Sec.

Mar. 12, 1908—Paid Jerome Howe .25¢ for acknowledging deed for Jas. Hamilton.

Mar. 6, 1909—Motion that Bernard Wright be instructed to draft one or two duplicated plots of cemetery. Edwin Wright, Sec.

Mar. 22, 1913—Motion that James McAllister oversee the digging of all graves.

Oct. 1923—Paid C. B. Scott \$13.75 for barb wire and staples. Paid Vaughn Drug Store for paint. Paid Milton White for posts \$12.60.

May 1925—Progressive Community Club donated \$22.00 for mowing.

Dec. 14, 1942—John Garvin donated Corner.

April 5, 1944—Pres. Charles Swartz appointed a committee to secure instructions for incorporating. Namely, Dell Kemp, John Garvin, Charles Swartz, James McAllister and Walter Howe.

May 4, 1944—Motion that names W. T. McAdams, Ralph Wright and George Lambourn be added to names of April meeting. All to be trustees.

Jan. 8, 1944—Treasurer Clifton Swartz reported \$1184.98 in treasury. \$1000 of the amount received from the will of Arthur Swartz.

Jan. 9, 1950—John Garvin appointed to contact attorney Vespa to consider a plan to establish perpetual care of cemetery. Charles Swartz, Pres.

Jan. 10, 1955—Due to the death of three trustees, namely, Walter Howe, W. T. McAdams, and Ralph Wright, the names of Wilma Thierry, Bert Lambourn, and Edwin Howe were placed on the list of trustees. Dell Kemp, Sec.

Jan. 17, 1955—The secretary was instructed to compose a letter with the help of Mrs. Robert Larp to send to relatives of families buried in cemetery asking for contributions toward sum needed for permanent care.

June 20, 1955—Edward Harter elected as township trustee for Cherry Point Cemetery

April 30, 1956—Roscoe L. Ball, Township Supervisor, instructed to pool \$879.22 with funds from twp., cemeteries until tax levy goes into effect in May 1957.

Oct. 15, 1959--Cherry Point Association received \$1000.00 from Executor of estate Maude Matilda Brown.

June 20, 1961--Called meeting to discuss the erection of a new fence in front of cemetery with dealer of Interlocking Fence Company. A twelve foot gate at both north and south end of fence, and arch with lettering above at center. Also gravel drive through cemetery.

Jan. 13, 1964--No attendance due to bad snow storm.

Nov. 13, 1965--John Garvin reported cost of \$7.12 for rebinding the secretary book.

Feb. 23, 1966--Five trustees named: Louise Swartz, Kenneth Axline, Velma Howe, John Garvin, Pres. Dell Kemp, Sec.

THE ZION LUTHERAN CEMETERY

The Zion Lutheran Cemetery is a plot of ground east of Wenona. It is one mile east and a half mile north of Route 17. This ground was donated to the church by Adolph Schwanke in 1902.

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY

The land for St. Mary's Cemetery was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Martin with the understanding that they would be buried in the heart of the cemetery, and it is so recorded: "In memory of Michael Martin, born in Caven County, Ireland, 1825; and Bridget Martin, born in Caven County, Ireland in 1827--Died in 1914".

Buried in the "heart" of the cemetery are: Father M. J. Clarke, who first held services in Wenona; Tommie, an Irish immigrant, known only as Tommy, and as caretaker; Rev. Daniel O'Dwyer, pastor for thirty-one years; his sister and house-keeper Ellen O'Dwyer; and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Martin, donors of the land.

St. Mary's cemetery, although in LaSalle County, helps record the story of the people of Wenona, and Evans Township. Its land was secured in January of 1892 by Rev. J. J. Smith and surveyed and plotted by D. H. Davison, a surveyor from Minonk, on June 2, 1892. The cemetery was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. J. L. Spaulding, Bishop of Peoria on July 27, 1900 with pastors from Toluca, Mendota, Henry, Spring Valley, Sheffield, Geneseo, and Rutland attending the ceremony.

Burials began in St. Mary's by July 3, 1892 and many of the first burials were of those removed from Reilly's, Richland, Henry, and Blackstone cemeteries on request of families or friends.

Some interesting information can be gained from the records and the death certificates and are worth mentioning. T. J. Judd, grandson of the Sandy pioneer, Thomas Judd, was issued his permit as undertaker in Wenona on January 5, 1902, and his name is on the records of many of those buried in St. Mary's. A Dr. Fogg signed many of the early death certificates, so he must have been the attending physician for quite a period of time. This Dr. Fogg lived in the house now owned by John Deneen; his daughter was the wife of Walter Kemp, now deceased; and his son has become a commander in the U. S. Navy.

Consumption, pneumonia, heart failure, exposure and old age were the listed causes of many deaths. In one month of a winter in the nineties, eight people died of LaGrippe, seven of whom had been born in Ireland. In one month of a summer six children died of cholera morbus, now called an acute gastritis.

At least there were physicians in attendance and proper burials for these people in contrast to the conditions in the early years at Sandy.

WENONA CEMETERY

The Wenona Cemetery is located in La Salle County, a few miles northeast of Wenona but most of its burials and lot owners were or are residents of Marshall County. Burials date back to the 1800's. A deed dated May 15, 1865, Rawley E. Dent, grantor, conveyed land in the "town of Osage, county of LaSalle and State of Illinois...containing, in road and cemetery lot, eight and one-fourth acres," to Bentley Gill, Thomas M. Gill, and Samuel I. Taylor, Esquires, Trustees of the Wenona Cemetery and to their successors in office. In 1925 more land was bought, south of the cemetery fence for parking space, and north for roadway. In 1927 four acres to the east were added and part of this has been landscaped and lots are being sold there as very few remain unsold in the older part.

On Sept. 25, 1920 a petition asking permission to form The Wenona Cemetery Association, Incorporated was signed by the following prominent citizens: Chas. Burgess, Sr.; Geo. O. Hodge, Otis Montgomery, Ralph W. Vaughn, Flora J. Woolf, A. L. Turner, Mrs. M. McGill, Geo. S. Monser, Harry M. Taggart, Alfred Helander, Chas. A. Crone, D. H. Gregg, and Ella P. Stateler. It was approved by the State of Illinois and on Oct. 20, 1920 officers of the Board of Trustees were: President, Chas. Burgess, Sr.; vice president, Chas. Crone; secretary Geo. O. Hodge, and treasurer, Harry M. Taggart. Interested persons subscribed amounts up to \$1000 each to get a fund started.

It is interesting to compare the present maintenance equipment including power mowers, trimmers, etc., with the inventory of tools Oct. 31, 1921: One ax \$2.75, one hand saw \$1.25; two hatchets \$2.50, one mattock \$2, two scythes and swaths complete \$5, two sickles \$2, one new lawn mower \$12, one long handled shovel \$2, two rakes \$1.50, two spades \$4.50, one fork \$1.50, one wrench \$1, one screw driver 25¢, two wheelbarrows \$12, one heating stove \$5, and one grindstone \$5; all totaling \$60.25 value.

Many improvements have been made since the acquisition of the original land. The devastating elm disease, widespread throughout the land, caused removal of many beautiful trees which have been replaced by hardwoods. Evergreens add to the beauty of the landscape. These new trees were a gift from a trustee.

A long list of respected citizens gave money and time to put the cemetery on a sound financial basis and the grounds in good condition. Most of them are gone but Louis Colehower who served as secretary-treasurer for 30 years and has been a trustee since 1929, still devotes much time and effort to overseeing the business and maintenance of the cemetery. He is now president of the Board of Trustees, Alphonso Barrett is vice-president and other members are Cliff Stateler, Fred Kuehn, Neal Gregg, Harry Axline and Geo. C. Ball.

Evans Township Sesquicentennial Queen



Accepting an invitation from the Evans Township Sesquicentennial Commission to be their queen is Mrs. Hulda Pomeranke, pictured above.

Hulda (Kruger) Pomeranke, who will be 100 years old in December, 1968, is an active Wenona citizen. Good German cooking and housekeeping are the main parts of her daily chores.

Born in Posen, Germany, December, 1868, she came to America at the age of 12 years. She married William Pomeranke and they became the parents of 12 children.

Pictured with Mrs. Pomeranke is Mrs. Maxine Tomlinson, Evans Township Sesquicentennial chairman, Ted Flesburg and Robert Kurrlee, committee members.

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY
Francis Miles Finch

By the flow of the inland river,
Whence the fleets of iron have fled,
Where the blades of the grave-grass quiver,
Asleep are the ranks of the dead:-
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the Judgment Day:-
Under the one, the Blue;
Under the other, the Gray.

These in the robings of glory,
Those in the gloom of defeat,
All with the Battle-blood gory,
In the dusk of eternity meet:-
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the Judgment Day:-
Under the roses, the Blue;
Under the lilies, the Gray.

So, with an equal splendor
The morning sun-rays fall,
With a touch impartially tender,
On the blossoms blooming for all:-
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the Judgment Day:-
Brodered with gold, the Blue;
Mellowed with gold, the Gray.

So, when the summer calleth,
On forest and field of grain,
With and equal murmur falleth
The cooling drip of the rain:-
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the Judgment Day:-
Wet with the rain, the Blue;
Wet with the rain, the Gray.

Sadly, but not with upbraiding,
The generous deed was done.
In the storm of the years that are fading,
No braver battle was won:-
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the Judgment Day;
Under the blossoms, the Blue;
Under the garlands, the Gray.

No more shall the war cry sever,
Or the winding rivers be red:
They banish our anger forever
When they laurel the graves of our dead!
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the Judgment Day:-
Love and tears for the Blue;
Tears and love for the Gray.

Soldiers Buried At Cumberland

LEE ULL GAYLORD--Born 1765, Died 1864. Was at Yorktown and saw Cornwallis surrender to George Washington. Revolutionary War.

FREDERICK DILLMAN--Born 1792, Died 1877.

J. W. CHAMP--Co. N - 104 - Illinois Inf.

JOHN S HUNT--

NURSE LYDIA FOULKE WILSON--Civil War.

J. W. WEAVER--Co. C. 14th Ill. Cavalry.

JAMES REIR--Sgt. Co. B. 77th Inf. Enlisted August 9, 1862. Discharged July 10, 1865.

ALVA DICKEY--Corporal Co. C. Ohio Inf.

GEORGE GRIFFEN--Co. H. 104th T. H. Enlisted August 10, 1863. Was one of the youngest soldiers of the Union Army, being but 17 years old. Discharged Sept. 13, 1864.

W. H. NORTON--Co. D. 29th Ill. Standing Army.

PUTNAM BECK WITH--1st Lt. Co. B. Ill. Mat. Guard. Enlisted in 1st Ill. Cav. July 3, 1861. Discharged July 14, 1862. Re-enlisted in 14th Cav. Sept. 4, 1862. Discharged July 30, 1865. He was wounded at Lexington,

JAMES KIRKPATRICK--Died in the army.

WILLIAM DILLMAN--Enlisted Aug. 15, 1862 in the 104th Vol. Inf. Discharged Dec. 3, 1863 through a disability. He was captured at Hartsville, Tenn. 1862.

THOMAS NELSON--

WILLIAM LONG--Co. B. 14th Ill. Cavalry.

GEORGE MARTIN--Private 4th Ill. Military, Black Hawk War 1839. War 1812.

RALPH JENKINS--World War I.

MARION KREIDER--Spanish American War 1898.

Copied From Cherry Point Cemetery Records.

SOLDIERS BURIED IN CHERRY POINT CEMETERY

January 1, 1894--The following is a list of soldiers buried in Cherry Point Cemetery, to date:

JOSEPH WARNER--Enlisted and served in the Revolutionary War of 1775 and 1776. He was born on the shore of Chesapeake Bay, of Irish parentage in 1738. When the colonies revolted he became a soldier and fought at the battle of Germantown. After the war he settled near Mount Vernon, Va., where his old commander resided. From Mt. Vernon he moved to Madison County, Ohio, where he resided until 1838. From there he came to Illinois in the summer of 1838. He then, being 100 years of age, rode on horseback and alone from his home in Ohio to the Edward Clifford farm, where he died on September 5, 1842 age 104 years. In a letter from Albert Evans of Nevada, Mo., to G. G. McAdam, he says, "I presume I am the only man living that remembers seeing the Old Man before he reached his destination at Joneses. He was a man of small stature, was riding a small roan mare, had an old saddle with a sheepskin over it. His pants were of blue jeans. His coat and vest of brown cloth. A white, round crowned, wool hat upon his head and shoes on his feet completed his ward-robe. It can be said of Joseph Warner that which can be said of few men. He fought for liberty. He voted for George Washington. He also voted for Abraham Lincoln. He voted for Lincoln for Presidential Elector in 1840. Please accept this from your old friend. Albert Evans."

DANIEL PADGETT--Enlisted at the age of 40 years and served in the War of 1812. Died in 1836 at the age of 64 years.

JOSHUA EVANS--Enlisted at the age of 19 and served in the War of 1812. Died at his residence in Evans Township, Illinois on January 15, 1869 at the age of 76 years.

SAMUEL HOPKINS--Co. H. 1st Reg. Ill. Cavalry. Enlisted July 3, 1861. Honorably discharged July 14, 1862. Re-enlisted September 9, 1862 in Company C. 14th Ill. Cavalry. Honorably discharged July 31, 1865 at Pulaski, Tenn. He was in the battle of Lexington, Mo., was taken prisoner there in 1861. Was held prisoner only a short time when in the 14th Reg. Cav. He was in the battle of Knoxville, Tenn. His regiment was in 40 battles or skirmishes and he was with it in most of them. He was in the raid after Morgan through Ohio. He was in the raid into North Carolina after the Indians, capturing one of them and bringing him into camp like a log on his horse in front of him, the Indian feigning death, but was not hurt. He was captured on the Stoneman raid and was in Andersonville five months. He was caught in the belting and killed in a paper mill at Pontiac, Illinois on January 30, 1891.

SAMUEL EDWARDS--Co. C. 44th Ill. Vol. Inf. Enlisted July 1, 1861. Mustered in Se. 13th, 1861. Died at the residence of his brother, John Edwards, on Crow Creek, Illinois.

WM. SHANNON HAFSH—Co. C. 44th Ill. Vol. Inf. Enlisted July 1, 1861. Was taken sick in camp at Decatur, Illinois and brought to Wenona and died at the residence of Abram Iller in the fall of 1861 before he was mustered in. Therefore, his name does not appear on the rostrum.

ALFRED HATFIELD—Co. C. 44th Ill. Vol. Inf. Enlisted July 1, 1861. Mustered in Sept. 13, 1861. Re-enlisted as veteran. Mustered out Sept. 25, 1865 as 1st Sgt. Was commissioned 2nd Lt., but not mustered. Died July 15, 1868 at the residence of Robert Calvin in Evans Township, Illinois.

ARTHUR MOORE—Vaughn's Battery. Lt. Ast. Enlisted August 5, 1862. Died at Boliver, Tenn., March 7, 1863.

ISSAC MOORE—Vaughn's Battery. Lt. Ast. Enlisted August 5, 1862. Died at Boliver, Tenn., March 23, 1863.

ADAM B MILLER—Vaughn's Battery. Lt. Ast. Enlisted August 5, 1862. Died at Germantown, Tenn., August 11, 1863.

WM. BROOK—Served all through the Revolutionary War and also all through the War of 1812. Died in 1841.

DANIEL SWARTZ—Enlisted in Co. F 134 Ill. Vol. Inf. May, 1864. Discharged Oct. 28, 1864.

WILLIAM KEMP—Served in Co. A. 88th Ill. Vol. Inf. Was in the battles of Perryville, Chatanooga and Lookout Mountain. Was wounded at Perryville Oct. 8, 1862. While in hospital he aided in care of other wounded soldiers. Joined his Co. Jan. 1, 1863, mustered out as Corp. Jan., 1865.

SALLY JONES—Nurse of the Revolutionary War. Daughter of Joseph Warner.

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 8
 ENEONA, ILLINOIS

LIST OF WAR VETERANS IN ENEONA CEMETERIES

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>WAR</u> | <u>RANK AND CO.</u> | <u>DATE OF DEATH</u> |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| ANDERSON, WILGOT, C. | | | 6-3-60 |
| APPLETON, PAUL, E. | WWI | PFC. U. S. ARMY | 6-21-57 |
| ARMSTRONG, B. K. | KOREAN | PFC. CO. B. 64th ENG. TPO | 5-17-51 |
| AXLINE, ORAL | WWI | PVT. SUP. CO. 68th ARTY. CAC | 8-15-63 |
| BASSETT, WM. | SP-AM | PVT. L 1st ILL. CAL. | 12-9-16 |
| BASILE, ALBERT, L. | WWI | 1st LT. 2523 BASE UNIT AAF | 5-21-63 |
| BALDWIN, JOHN | CIVIL | PVT. H 10 ILL | 7-11-07 |
| BRADY, WM. | CIVIL | PVT. D 91 INF. | 11-12-1894 |
| BROWN, CLARKSON, J. | WWI | CPL CO. E. 407 TELEGRAPH BN | 9-12-64 |
| BROWN, SAMUEL | CIVIL | PVT. H 104 ILL. | 4-8-09 |
| BUTCHER, RBT. W. | CIVIL | PVT. G. 17th W. VIG. | 1-18-05 |
| CARTER, E. F. | CIVIL | PVT. I 91 INF. | 8-9-1866 |
| CHAMF, JOHN S. | CIVIL | PVT. H 104 INF. | 5-25-1869 |
| COLE, GEO. H. | WWI | 1101 SQUADRON 1st AIR | 5-27-47 |
| CRONE, HERBERT R. | WWI | SGT. Z CO. 165 DEPOT | 2-22-57 |
| CUSAC, CHAS. | CIVIL | PVT. A 159 OHIO INF. | 2-2-18 |
| CUSAC, ORVILLE | WWI | BAKER QMC | 2-2-19 |
| DICUS, GEOR. W. | SP-AM | PVT. H. 104 ILL. INF. | 12-26-24 |
| DIXON, THOMAS | CIVIL | CPL. D 89 ILL. INF. | 6-4-10 |
| DOEDE, CHARLES A. | | | |
| DOWNNEY, WM. L. | CIVIL | PVT. I 11 ILL. INF. | 2-7-20 |
| DUNKEN, JOSEPH | CIVIL | PVT. I 51 ILL. INF. | 12-18-1866 |
| ERVIN, RBT. E. | CIVIL | PVT. A 3 ILL | 6-22-22 |
| EVERET, FRED | WWI | PVT. CO. B. ENG. | 1-31-66 |
| EVERETT, ROBERT | WWI | | 3-31-66 |
| ELLISON, HARRY | SP-AM | PVT. L ILL. CAL. | 3-23-47 |
| FLESBERG, C.R. | WWI | CORP. TGR. BU. NCTC | 12-23-39 |
| FOSTER, HENRY | CIVIL | PVT. B 77 ILL. ING. | 2-10-09 |
| FOSTER, FRANK H. | SP-AM | PVT. CO. L. 1 REGT. ILL. | 4-12-46 |
| FRED, PHILLIP | CIVIL | PVT. B. 11 ILL. ING. | -1865 |
| FULKERSON, CLINT | WWI | PVT. B. A 25th FIELD ARTY. | 12-30-65 |
| GILL, W.C. | CIVIL | PVT. K. 139 ILL. INF. | 9-13-1883 |
| GRAY, LEGGET | CIVIL | PVT. C. 20 ILL. CAL. | 12-6-1864 |
| GREGORY, O.B. | WWI | 2nd LT. U.S. ARMY | 6-28-61 |
| HALLAM, SAM P. | CIVIL | PVT. F 22 PEN RIG | 10-10-33 |
| HALLAM, HARRY | SP-AM | PRVT. TRP. L. 1 ILL. CAV. VOL | 1-4-44 |
| HARTER, ALONZO | CIVIL | PVT. E 130 IND. | 11-20-15 |
| HARTER, E. CLARK | WWI | 2nd LT. AIR CORP | 2-9-54 |
| HAZELWOOD, JAS. | CIVIL | PVT. F 20 ILL. INF. | 8-11-19 |
| HIGHSMITH, DONALD | WWI | PFC. 42nd AERIAL SQD. | 11-28-61 |
| HODGE, LOUIS J. | CIVIL | BAND 42 ILL. INF. | 8-7-12 |
| HODGE, LEANDER | CIVIL | PVT. BAND CO 42 ILL. INF. | 8-7-12 |
| HODGE, RBT. P. | CIVIL | PVT. I 104 ILL. INF. | 11-27-1887 |
| HODGE, T.J. | CIVIL | PVT. A 88 ILL. INF. | 1-22-05 |
| HOUSTON, J.J. | CIVIL | PVT. A 129 ILL. INF. | 1-1-1897 |
| HULTGREEN, J. | WWI | PVT. CO. 67 17th BAT. | |

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|------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------------|
| HYLEN, HAROLD | WW2 | G. M. 1/c-U.S.N.R. | 11-28-64 |
| JENKINS, GILBERT | WWI | SGT. 14 FIELD, ART. | 4-4-43 |
| JENKINS, LEVI | CIVIL | PVT. C 86 ILL. INF. | |
| KEMP, EDWARD | WW2 | MAJOR 8th AIR FORCE | K/A |
| KRIEDER, MARION | SP-AM | ENSIGN U. S. NAVY | 1-16-56 |
| KROSS, HERMAN A. | WWI | SGT. 315 GUARD & FIRE CO AMC | 9-24-52 |
| LAYTON, THOMAS | CIVIL | PVT. K 107 ILL. INF. | 3-1-1876 |
| LINLEY, JOHN | MEX. | WAR 1812 | 7-9-1863 |
| MC CALLERY, FEFFORY | WWI | TEC. 4 103 MED. SERV. CO. | 9-27-59 |
| MC GILL, ALLEN | CIVIL | SGT. H. 104 ILL. INF. | 5-7-1872 |
| MARINER, ROBT. | CIVIL | PVT. B. 29 OHIO INF. | ? |
| MERHAUT, HELEN | WW2 | 1st LT ARMY NURSE CORP | ? (CUMBER.) |
| MONSER, EDW. L. | CIVIL | PVT. A LT. ART. | 1-8-14 |
| MONSER, EDW. L. | WWI | SGT. Q.M. U. S. ARMY | 4-4-60 |
| MONTGOMERY, OWEN | CIVIL | | 3-16-09 |
| MOORE, GEO. W. | CIVIL | PVT. K. 138 ILL. INF. | 3-8-11 |
| MOORE, HARRY | WWI | LT. CON. U. S. A. | 9-5-37 |
| MYERS, OREN L. | CIVIL | DRM K 138 ILL. INF. | 8-29-37 |
| MYERS, WILLIS A. | SP-AM | MAJOR VETERINAYR SERVIC | 11-14-54 |
| OKENSON, WILL | CIVIL | CO. E. 70 MO. | 11-6-10 |
| PARKS, LLOYD | WWI | PVT. 349th MACH. GUN CO. | 8-16-61 |
| PARKER, D. D. | CIVIL | PVT. C 4 ILL INF. | 8-31-1891 |
| PARIS, VERNER | WWI | PVT. 139th INF. | 1-30-66 |
| PETERS, RAY J. | WW2 | CORP. H. D. CO 9th TANK BN. | 8-1-53 |
| POLLARD, CHAS. E. | | | 8-7-31 |
| RUSSEL, MARTIN | CIVIL | PVT. K 3 ILL. ST. ART. | 4-17-35 |
| RUSSEL, THOMAS | MEX. | PVT. L | 6-6-1896 |
| ROBINSON, OSCAR | CIVIL | PVT. I 104 ILL. INF. | 3-13-23 |
| ROBINSON, ED. | SP-AM | PVT. L 1st ILL. CALV. | 1-25-44 |
| REAM, C. S. | CIVIL | BAND 42 ILL. INF. | -1886 |
| REESER, CYRUS | CIVIL | PVT. F 61 ILL. INF. | 5-2-1891 |
| RICH, KENDELL | M-C | SURG. C 73 ILL. INF. | 9-29-1890 |
| ROBBINS, J. A. | CIVIL | PVT. C 44 ILL. INF. | 5-1-1864 |
| ROBERTS, JASON M. | | | 2-14-53 |
| ROBERTS, DAN S. | CIVIL | PVT. H. 104 ILL. INF. | 7-19-1896 |
| ROBINSON, CHARLES T. | | | |
| ROBINSON, FRED E. | WWI | COCK CO. G. 23 ENG. | 6-3-57 |
| ROBINSON, MANZEL P. | SP-AM | PVT. TRP L. 1 REG. ILL. CAL. | 3-8-58 |
| ROBINSON, EDGAR C. | | | 2-20-60 |
| SCOTT, SAM | CIVIL | PVT. K 1st ILL. INF. | 7-18-00 |
| SWARTZ, CLIFFTON | WWI | | 8-22-59 |
| SNIVLEY, JOHN W. | CIVIL | PVT. H 11 ILL. INF. | 7-31-15 |
| SCHONFIELD, G. GRIFFIN | | UNSNR YEOMAN 1/C | 1-17-66 |
| SHERWOOD, ISAAC | CIVIL | CAFT. M. D. CO. MED. SERV. | 2-16-16 |
| SMITH, MRS. O. B. | WWI | ARMY NURSE CORPS | 12-29-55 |
| SOUTHWELL, C. M. | CIVIL | PVT. H 104 ILL. INF. | 2-21-1879 |
| STRANSBACK, ED. | CIVIL | CORP. I. 61 ILL. INF. | 12-24-18 |
| TARMER, JAMES W. | | | 9-6-53 |
| THOMAS, JOHN W. | CIVIL | PVT. D. 63 ILL. INF. | 12-27-1898 |
| THIELIRRY, FRED | CIVIL | PVT. C I OHIO HEV. ART. | 1-20-27 |
| VAUGHN, ISSAC | CIVIL | 1st LT. H 104 ILL. INF. | 4-27-04 |
| VERONA, ALBERT | WW2 | PVT. CO. B. TRNG 12 REG. | 2-24-58 |
| VERNER, FRED W. | CIVIL | PVT. K 138 ILL. INF. | 4-18-1866 |
| WALKER, JOHN W. | WWI | PVT. BTRY. C 64 F. A. | 10-20-59 |

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|------------------|-------|-------------------------------|------------|
| WESNER, JAS. K. | CIVIL | PVT. L. 77 ILL. INF. | 1-11-12 |
| WHITNEY, GUY V. | WWI | SFC. MED DET 337 MG BN 88 DIV | 7-21-52 |
| WILSON, KENNETH | WW2 | MR2 U. S. N. R. | 3-11-65 |
| WISE, GEO. A. | CIVIL | PVT. A. 88 ILL. INF. | 5-9-15 |
| WOOD, J. N. | CIVIL | PVT. H. 104 ILL. INF. | 12-1-1880 |
| WOOD, WILL S. | CIVIL | PVT. C 44 ILL. INF. | 10-7-1881 |
| WOOLF, CHAS. J. | CIVIL | PVT. E. 44 ILL. CALV. | 7-13-1893 |
| WOOLF, HENRY | MEX. | WAR 1812 | 10-14-1875 |
| WOLFE, A. J. | CIVIL | PVT. CO A 94 ILL. INF. | 7-13-1893 |
| WOOLF, SAMUEL | CIVIL | PVT. A. 88 ILL. INF. | 9-28-1862 |
| WORK, JAMES S. | CIVIL | SGT. H. 104 ILL. INF. | 5013-18 |
| WORK, RALPH B. | WWI | CPL. MG CO 132 INF. 33rd DIV | 5-22-45 |
| WATERS, CLAUDE | WWI | PVT. 3 FIELD ART. 6th DIV | 2-10-24 |
| WILLIAMS, FRED | WWI | PVT. 113 FIELD SIG. CORP. | 8-8-36 |
| WIELAND, WILL E. | WWI | PVT. 151 1st F. A. | 1-15-37 |
| WESTON, THOS. B. | CIVIL | PVT. 143 ILL. INF. | 12-10-38 |
| YARC, RAYMOND R. | | | |
| YORK, J. N. B. | CIVIL | PVT. 94 ILL. INF. | 9-7-1880 |
| DOWNEY, W. H. | SP-AM | TRP. L. 1st CAB | 9-27-46 |

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| ARNOLD, JULIE K. | WW2 | WAVE, Y2C USNR | 12-22-45 |
| ARTMAN, JAMES | WWI | PVT. MARINE CORP | |
| BELL, FLOYD | WW2 | T/5 301 PRT. CO 1st ARMY | 6-7-52 |
| BRUNSKI, FRANK | WWI | | 62 |
| CHRISTY, PATRICK | CIVIL | PVT. I 94 ILL. INF. | 4-18-1878 |
| CONDEN, LEE | WWI | CPL. HQ CO 68 ART. CAC | 9-15-57 |
| DAILY, JAMES | WWI | | 26 |
| DANAHER, JOHN | WWI | PVT. 12 CASUAL CO. | 1-16-61 |
| DUNLEAVY, JOHN | WWI | PVT. SUPPLY 49 C. ART. | 1-7-20 |
| FLECKER, FRED | WW2 | PFC. CO F 910th INF. | 2- -68 |
| HARDY, JOSEPH S. | WW2 | PVT. 58 ART CAC 16 DISC U | 7-25-57 |
| HILL, ROBT. D. | WW2 | CORP. AIR FORCE | 3-13-45 |
| KANE, JOHN R. | WW2 | CORP 36 SERVICE CO | 7-5-57 |
| KING, FRANCIS | WW2 | FIREMAN 1/C U. S. NAVY | 11-30-42 |
| KOMAN, A. | WWI | PVT. CO H 349 INF. | |
| KROCKER, LOUIS A. | WW2 | PVT. 1907 SERVICE UNIT | 2-17-61 |
| KRUPA, PAUL | WWI | PVT. 229 INF. 33 DIV | 10-18-20 |
| LAUF, JOHN W. | KOREAN | 187th AIRBORNE INF. | 6-14-51 |
| MARKS, JOHN T. | WW2 | PFC. CO C 167th INF. 31st DIV | 3-20-66 |
| MELODY, GEO. E. | WWI | PFC. CO E 7 AMMUNITION TN | 1-14-53 |
| MELODY, JAMES | WW2 | PFC. CO B 66 SIGNAL BN | 8-27-61 |
| MOORE, VINCENT J. | WW2 | PVT. U. S. ARMY | 3-14-57 |
| MURRAY, DAVID C. | WWI | PVT. 130 INF. | |
| NADLER, JOSEPH | WWI | PVT. SUP. CO. 10th INF. 14 DIV | 9-19-52 |
| NOLAN, GERALD L. | KOREAN | PFC. U. S. AIR CORPS | 11-30-51 |
| O'GRADY, MICHAEL | CIVIL | PVT. F 10 NEW YORK | 10-17-08 |
| O'SULLIVAN, WILL | WWI | PVT. ARMY | -37 |
| PEITSZAK, MICHAEL | WW2 | PVT. 15th AIR SERV SQD | |
| REGNIER, GREGORY | WW2 | PVT. CO A 393 INF. | -44 |
| SOBERRI, MICHAEL | WW2 | PRC 481 QM CO | 4-6-63 |

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| STRANSBACK, LOEWLL | WW2 | TEC 5 ARMORED REGT | 8-6-61 |
| SWITEK, STEPHEN | WWI | CCRF B 34, ILL. INF. | 8-7-36 |
| STENZEL, JOSEPH | WWI | PVT. BAT. C 48th F. A. | |
| VINCEK, POLLOCK | WWI | PVT. 129 INF. 33 DIV | 10-18-20 |
| VOLZ, L. H. | WWI | PH. MATE 3rd CLASS | 1-4-64 |
| SULLIVAN, T. P. | WW2 | | 7-1-55 |
| LAWLESS, JOHN | WWI | PVT. 2nd CO GAS DETT | 1-22-56 |
| KENNEY, FENTON | WWI&2 | SGT. USMC (RET) | 2-6-56 |
| ZULZ, FRANCIS J. | WW2 | MM3 USNR | 8-21-59 |
| ZULZ, FRANK | WWI | FFC. CO K 306th INF. | -67 |
| STENZEL, CHARLES | KOREA | SFC 3 SVC BTRY 28 ART | |

ZION LUTHERAN CEMETARY

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-------------------------|----------|
| STENCEL, CARL | WWI | PVT. 19 CO. DISCH. UNIT | 7-27-49 |
| STRAUCH, ARTHUR | WW2 | 2nd LT. AIR FORCE | 2-28-44 |
| TIMM, WALTER | WW2 | 136th INF. 33rd DIV | 2-23-45 |
| UEBLER, ADOLFH | WWI | BT. E 331 FLD. AR. AE. | 9-30-50 |
| RENZ, GEORGE | | | 12-12-53 |

THE WENONA BUSINESS DISTRICT - 1968

On this March 17, 1968 as we approach the City of Wenona on Route 51 from the south we pass two service stations: Jack Davies' Motor Stop and Johnny McClure's Sinclair Service, then the Archway Cookie Factory which, although not within the city limits, are considered a part of Wenona's business. Leaving Route 51 and following Route 17 into Wenona we pass first on our left the Super-Val Station, owned by Lawrence Miller. Next the Woltzen Chevrolet, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Clair Woltzen. Then there are two blocks of residences and the highway becomes Chesnut Street--Wenona's "Main Street." On our left is the Fire Station housing three engines and an office. On the corner west is Wenona Farm Supply Co., owner, Floyd Zehr--Formerly the late Thurman Schinzel's Wenona Milling Co. North of the Fire Station is Goodwin's Garage which for many years was run by Ralph Goodwin, then by his sons, Charles and Bill, and now by Charles Goodwin. Adjoining the garage is "The Chuck Wagon" restaurant, Alyce Reichman proprietor. This was for years known as "Cora's Coffee Shop," then it became Lizann's and recently The Chuck Wagon. Sieg-LaSalle, managed by Ed Stasiak, occupies the next building and is primarily a wholesale auto parts store. Across the street east is an imposing structure--the Wenona Elevator, Donald Schwanke, manager, and Marge Stranzenback, bookkeeper. Back to the west side of the street we find Axline Appliance and Gift Shop--Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Axline, owners. Axline and Stewart Insurance Agency is next door and here we find Willard Stewart, Howard Campbell and Alyce Hylin. Continuing north, we pass the Harmony Club tavern and bowling alley--Bill and Treva Harris, owners; then the barber shop that for many years was known as Foley and Jackson's and has been operated by Al Jackson since the death of Leonard Foley. Next is the Bond Public Library where Genevieve Hallam is librarian. Wenona Variety, or "the dime store" is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lester Braasch. Last place of business in this block is the former Hotel Stanton, now the "Lobby Boutique," an exclusive dress shop run by Wanda Leathers, while her husband, Bill, operates a teen-age amusement center in the same building.

Turning west at the hotel corner we come to an empty building which was the General Telephone Office until dial phones were installed. If present plans materialize, this may one day be a museum. Continuing west across the alley is Wenona Produce, owner Fritz Campbell and bookkeeper, Margaret Lawless. On the corner is the City Hall, home base for Wenona policemen Carl Hylin and Mark Peterson, and meeting place for the city council. Crossing the street north, we find the American Legion Hall, and turning east we pass the Lauf Insurance Agency, owned for generations by the Lauf family and now by Joseph L. Lauf. Continuing east we come to the Wenona Cleaners, William Heinie and Walter Becker, partners; then the George Ball Insurance Agency; Walter Wenzlaff's Cabinet Shop; Herber Himmeler's Shoe Repair Shop; the post office with Neal Gregg, Joe Marks, Phillip Pickard and sometimes Clara Moffett at work, and Maurice Schaut, rural carrier. Across the alley east is the old Kane "Smoke House," now empty and abandoned, having been pronounced unsafe for use.

We're back to Chestnut (Main) Street and turning north past the Kane front, we find Alphonso Barrett carrying on the family hardware business of many, many years. This is a popular meeting place for some of the

THE WENONA BUSINESS DISTRICT - 1968 (continued)

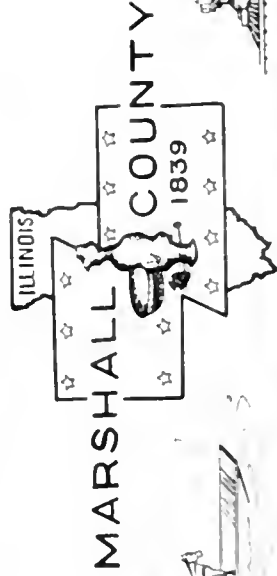
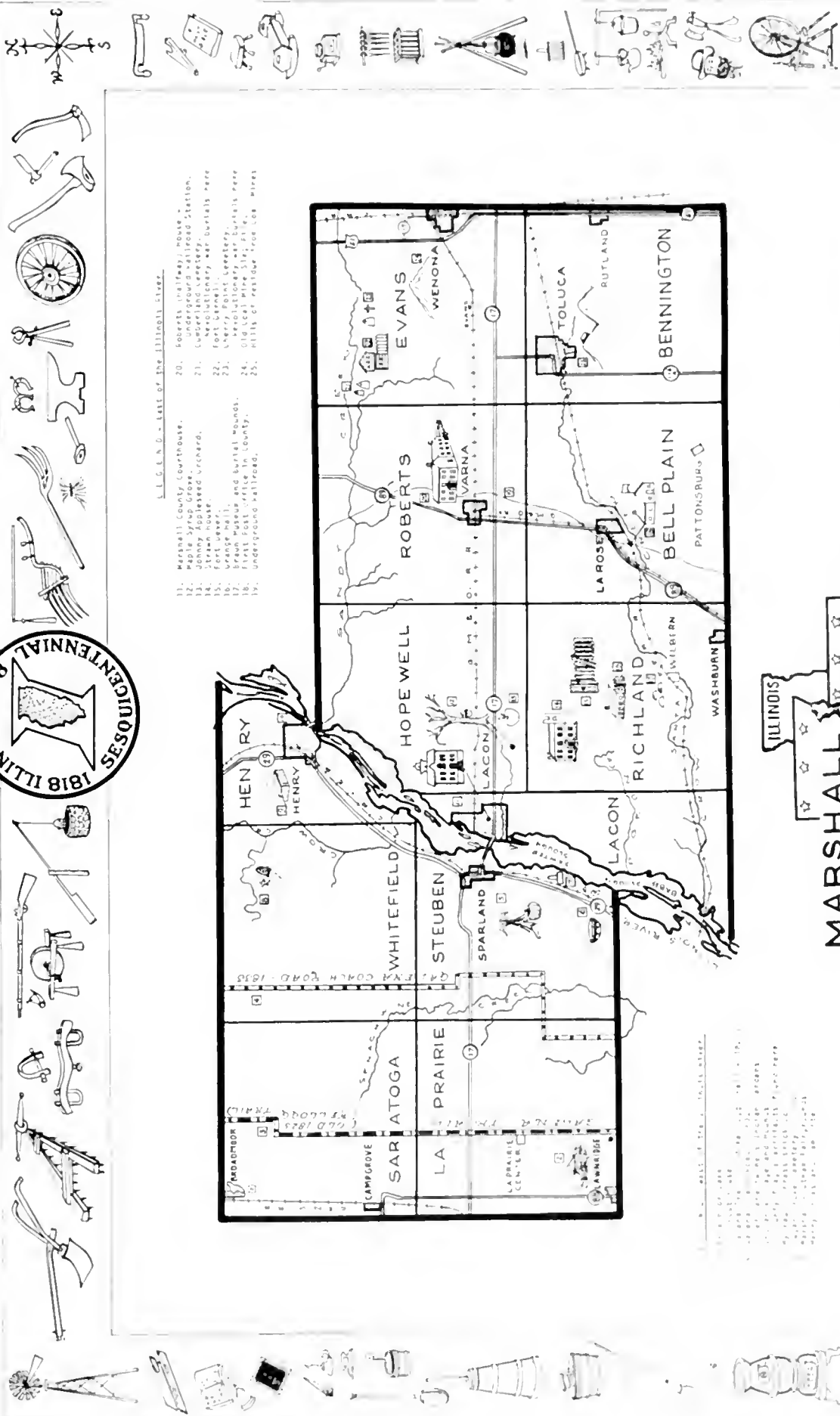
elderly male citizens. Next building, until recently occupied by Marty Drugs, is now an amusement hall, featuring slot car racing. Ted Flesburg is the justly proud owner of one of Wenona's finest business places, the Wenona Jewelry. June Missal's Superway grocery comes next. Across the street east we see Wenona Appliance's warehouse. On down the west side again is the law office of Ross Canty, with Verna Knapp, secretary. Neal Gregg's insurance office is in this building also. Another of Wenona's three grocery stores, Eddie's Market, is next door; then Pete's Place, a combined confectionery and tavern operated by Donald Peterson. This was owned by the Marks family for so long it is still frequently called "Marks's " and was operated by John Marks prior to his death. Next door is Wenona's largest store, Kurrle's Dry Goods, with father and son, J. A. and Robert Kurrle in charge. Passing Harry Ellis' Wenona Hardware and Ronald Baker's Barber Shop, we come to the Telfords' Wenona Locker. The second empty place on "Main Street" is the Harrison building; then the third grocery store--Fat and Jerri Sullivan's, where they are assisted by Mrs. Ralph Krueger. In the "Sweet Shop" we find Clarence "Doc" Pomerence and his wife, Fern, dishing out sodas, cokes and conversation to young and old alike. Paul Keike and Kendall Ball of the Wenona Appliance, answer calls for plumbing, heating etc. At the desk is Georgia Bishop. In the Professional Building are two office suites: Dr. Edward Hatton, dentist, with Alberta Nelson assisting; and Attorney Edward Zukosky, with secretary Dolores White. Next is the Wenona State Bank, backbone of the Wenona Community, and at the end of this block is Smith's Cupboard, a restaurant operated by Howard and Effie Smith.

Turning west at the Cupboard corner, then crossing the street, we come to Robert Mahnke's Wenona Oil Service. West of it is Foster Motor Sales, dealers in farm machinery and automobiles. The late Johnny Foster's daughters, Betty Swartz, Jo Ann Durham and Judy Foster tend to this business. Back-tracking east to the corner, we find Tom's Laundromat and Car Wash--Tom Smithberger, that is. Across the street southeast is Jean Thierry's Service Station and across from that north is the Allen Lumber Company, Clarence Freeman, manager and Mrs. Paul Pomerence, bookkeeper. Just north of the Laundromat on the west side of the street is Harold and Wilma Crone's Shortstop Restaurant, and next to them, The Wenona Index, weekly newspaper, edited and published by Floyd "Hap" Johnson; then there is an empty, dilapidated building; another old building used as a storehouse by Thierry's Service Station; Fritz' "66" Station, being run by James Flecker since the recent death of his father, Fritz Flecker, who was there for many years; and now the street becomes a residential district until the end of the next block where Henry Colgan's service station and tavern are located. Across the street east is Nass' Trucking garage. We are at the north edge of the city and to our left we see the Wenona Community District #1 grade and high schools. Although not classified as "business," there is probably more "business" conducted here than at most places in town. You now have a choice: continue out of town north, back west to Route 51, or east on Route 17. We hope you'll turn around and return to Wenona.

On this day in March, 1968, we find over fifty businesses in operation in the Wenona business district, many having been here for genera-

Sesquicentennial Place Mat of Marshall County Historical Society

Art Work by Peg Earp of Wenona



Letter from Illinois Governor Otto Kerner — Jan. 22, 1968



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SPRINGFIELD 62706

OTTO KERNER
GOVERNOR

January 22, 1968

Mrs. Robert Earp
Box 282
Wenona, Illinois 61377

Dear Mrs. Earp:

I was delighted to receive your letter and the place mats to be used in the restaurants in Marshall County. They are attractively done and the rural theme will interest so many people. The identity of so many areas makes it easy to find them. I am certain they will help so very much in this Sesquicentennial year.

Congratulations and please extend my thanks and congratulations also to Mrs. Tomlinson and to Mr. Finfgeld.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Otto Kerner".

Governor

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following sources of information were invaluable in the preparation of "Old Sandy Remembers":

- A Centennial History of Menom Harter, Edward C.
Files of The Menom Index newspaper.
History of Darnell-Judd Families Judd, Roland
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Ye Olden Times Ellsworth, Spencer
Interviews with older citizens and descendants of pioneers.

AFTERTHOUGHT

This is an amateur endeavor and represents months of research, thought and work. A country parson once said, "It appears that some folks do great things easily. That's because we don't see them struggle through the necessary preparation." If we waited for ultimate perfection, nothing would be produced.

A complete history of Evans Township could never be contained in a publication of this size. Comparatively few of the countless citizens who were a part of the development of the land and community are named herein. We trust that omissions will be forgiven; that the contents will bring pleasant memories to older readers, and to the young a new interest in our heritage.

It is hoped that there will be later volumes published, recording the history and lore of Evans Township. Only time and space prevented more being recorded here.

So many helped in so many ways, it would be impossible to list everyone but their assistance and interest is greatly appreciated.

EVANS TOWNSHIP MEMBERS OF THE MARSHALL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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